

THE TIMES MONDAY

How the West can win Bernard Levin face to face with Alexander Solzhenitsyn

BBC lead over TV-am increased

The peak average audiences for BBC breakfast television is 10 times that of TV-am, according to the latest viewing figures.

Flying start for People Express

People Express, the US airline, announced it will begin its \$99 Gatwick-New York flights next week.

Dioxin apology

The 41 drums of Seveso dioxin waste found in a dioxin abattoir were under guard at a French Army camp yesterday.

Reagan clash

President Reagan appears to be heading for a direct clash with Congress over proposals which would cut back his defence budget substantially and at the same time raise American taxes.

Ship contract

Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, have asked subcontractors to start work on a vital \$60m order for four ships.

Times barred

Wednesday's edition of The Times, which carried a leading article on the Kenyan political situation, was confiscated by the authorities at Nairobi airport.

Sakhavov plea

The wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident, talked to the press in the street to appeal for him to be allowed to return to Moscow for medical treatment.

Too much talent

Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, has blamed the company's problems on its management. He says the company suffers from too much talent.

Money rush

In the wake of tough exchange controls in France, wealthy British investors are rushing to establish overseas trusts.

Davies for Cup

Alan Davies, a 21-year-old reserve, is included in the Manchester United team who start firm favourites to beat Brighton in the FA Cup final at Wembley.

Leader page 11 Letters: On conduct of election, from Dr B. Harrison; on media and Mid East, from Mr W. Frankel, and Mr A. I. Miles; air injuries, from Mr B. Wood, and Mr J. W. Wolonicki.

Table with 4 columns: Home News, Overseas, Apts, Arts, Business, Sport, TV & Radio, Universities, Diary, Law Report, Religion, Sale Room, Science, Services, 19-21

Lower inflation figures draw party crossfire

- Inflation fell to a 15-year low of 4 per cent from 4.6 per cent in March, with cyclical indicators pointing upwards. Mr Peter Shore said that prices had risen at an annual rate of 7 per cent over the past quarter. The Conservatives' first campaign press conference exposed differences between the Prime Minister and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary. An alleged Treasury costing of Labour's manifesto promises was distributed by the Conservative Party Research Department (page 5). Senior trade union leaders decided to play down Mr Frank Chapple's endorsement of an SDP candidate (page 5). Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said the Alliance offered voters a difficult path, but easy choices were false ones (page 5).

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Inflation, the factor which decided the outcome of the last four general elections and may yet decide this one, was brought before the public by the Conservatives yesterday, the day it fell to an annual rate of 4 per cent, the lowest for 15 years.

JUNE 24 '83

Table of polls: The women's vote 4, Table of polls 5, Foot on tour 5, Jock Bruce-Gardyne 10, Leading article, letters 11, Frank Johnson 24

The hope of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Conservative leadership is that this single statistic, the brightest they will have to display between now and polling day, will hide the figure of more than three million unemployed which Labour continues to hold up in every speech.

Although the 4 per cent had long been forecast, Cabinet ministers trumpeted its arrival. Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that not even Labour could pretend that it was not good news.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, did all he could with it. Success against inflation was transforming our economic position, he said, and was the basis on which the Conservative manifesto rightly claimed that they had laid the foundations of recovery.

Sir Geoffrey did not deny that the retail price index would edge upwards again after next month, but he cautiously improved on his Budget forecast of a 6 per cent inflation rate this autumn, which he said now looked pessimistic. And in a burst of uncharacteristic daring, he added: "There is no reason whatever to expect an upsurge in inflation at the end of this year, or any time thereafter."

4% rate best for 15 years

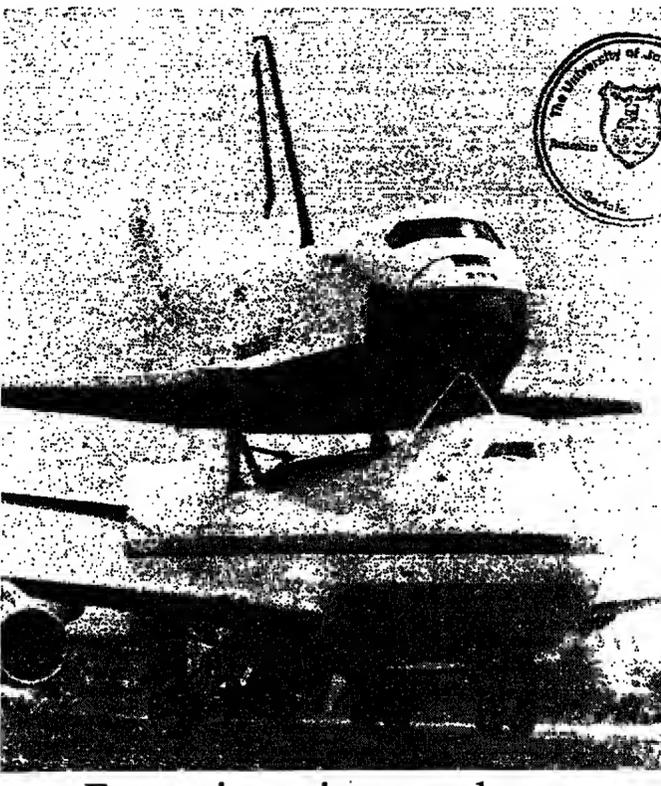
The Government's election campaign was enhanced yesterday by news that inflation last month fell to a 15-year low of 4 per cent, while indicators signalling the course of economic recovery continued to point to a strong rise in the months ahead. The rate of price rises is expected to slow to 3.5 per cent for the year to May, according to some City estimates, before inflation picks up in the summer. Some rise is inevitable because prices virtually stood still between last June and December, helped by falling mortgage rates. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, who predicted at Budget time that inflation would rise to around 6 per cent by Christmas, said recently that the increase might be less. This is partly because the pound has since strengthened, making imports cheaper. Britain is now firmly among the low-inflation countries of the West. Though the rate remains above that of the US, Germany and Japan, it is well below the EEC average of 7.6 per cent and the industrial countries' average of 5.7 per cent. Inflation is now less than half the 10.3 per cent annual rate the Government inherited in May 1979 after peaking at 22 per cent a year later. The index of retail prices rose by 1.4 per cent in April to 332.5 (January 1974 = 100), compared with 2 per cent in the same month last year. No major price increases are in the pipeline. Pay rises at manufacturing companies are still slowing. The tax and price index, also released yesterday, shows that workers would have needed pay increases of only 3.5 per cent over the past year to keep pace with higher prices and taxes. In fact earnings are rising at more than twice that rate, giving a big boost to living standards. The latest cyclical indicators, which predict what will happen to the British economy, all rose strongly last month, pointing to a continuing upswing over the next year or so.

'Yes, I do believe in trying to persuade people that the things which I believe in are the things which they should follow'



Mrs Thatcher gave no sign yesterday that she thought "headmistress" criticism would dent her image. Her quote is from a BBC interview. (Photographs: Chris Harris.)

Differences between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, about the desirable size of a Conservative majority emerged at the first campaign press conference of the Conservative Party in London yesterday, Our Political Staff writes. Mrs Thatcher's abrupt treatment of Mr Pym at the launching of the Conservative manifesto on Wednesday was seized on by the Alliance and the Labour Party as another public sign that the Foreign Secretary, who has often been reported to have strained working relations with the Prime Minister, is on the way out if the Conservatives win. Mrs Thatcher was angry about comments made by Mr Pym in a television programme on Thursday night, when he deprecated landslide victories. He had recalled the 1945 Labour triumph which led to a period of majority government which he did not think was successful and indicated that, rather than a landslide, he would prefer to see a Conserva-



Enterprise arrives on a breeze

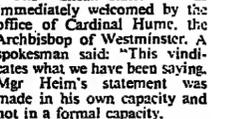
The space shuttle Enterprise arriving at Fairford, Gloucestershire, yesterday on its way to the Paris Air Show. Enterprise was given a 6,000 mile "piggy-back" from California on a modified Boeing 747 carrier aircraft. About 30,000 spectators were allowed into the US Air Force base to watch the Boeing approach the runway from the east and then climb away as the wind changed to try a second time. Enterprise, which has never flown in space, took off after two hours to continue its journey in Paris. The shuttle will be back in Britain on June 5 and 6 for Stansfeld Air Show.

Pretoria car bomb kills 13 at Air Force headquarters

A high-car bomb exploded in the heart of Pretoria during the late afternoon rush-hour yesterday killing at least 13 people and wounding 40 others. The toll of dead and injured could go higher. The bomb went off at about 4.30pm in a car parked outside the large Nedbank Plaza building on Church Street, which houses the headquarters of the South African Air Force, including the offices of Air Forces Intelligence. The South African Prison services also have offices in the building. Standing amid the broken glass and other debris littering the street, Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, described the explosion, as the "biggest and ugliest" terrorist incident since anti-government violence began in South Africa more than 20 years ago. Mr Le Grange said that although he did not yet have proof there was "no doubt in my mind" that the underground African National Congress (ANC) was responsible "for this despicable act here this afternoon." Most acts of sabotage and bomb blasts have been the work of the ANC, but in the past the organization has generally, though not always, tried to avoid civilian casualties. Certainly, the death toll has never been as high in any previous incident. Mr Le Grange said that civilian and Air Force personnel and other people in uniform were among the dead, and that "quite a number of them were blacks". After the explosion the entire area for several blocks was sealed off by police and soldiers with barbed wire-cordons. Outside the cordons Pretoria was its usual placid self. Inside it was like a Beirut street scene at the height of the Lebanese civil war. The whole of the lower half of the 13-storey Nedbank building was shattered as were windows and shop fronts on the other side of the street. One of the buildings there housed the offices of the Army Paymaster. The area was littered with strips of twisted metal and a stream of blood had congealed along the pavement. A scorched and blackened engine block, apparently from the car in which the bomb was placed, had been hurled about 40 yards down the road. Outside the entrance to the Nedbank building a shallow crater and a few chunks of metal marked the spot of the explosion.

Vatican stays out of Heim dispute

The Vatican yesterday dissociated itself from the controversial attack on Mgr Bruce Kent, the general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament by Archbishop Bruno Heim, its diplomatic representative in Britain. But Mgr Heim responded by saying that he stood by his view that unilateralists were either "blinkered idealists" or "useful idiots", or consciously sharing the Soviet ideology, and maintained that he was only reflecting the Pope's view on unilateralism. After a week of discreet silence on the controversy, Father Romeo Panciroli, the chief Vatican spokesman, said yesterday that Archbishop Heim's action had been an entirely personal initiative. He was not authorized to say more, he said. But it appears clear from the length of time it had taken the Vatican to comment that considerable embarrassment is felt over the issue, and it is considered particularly unfortunate that such a controversial stand should have been taken by the first envoy since relations between Britain and the Holy See were raised to the equivalent of ambassadorial level 15 months ago. The Vatican statement was immediately welcomed by the office of Cardinal Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster. A spokesman said: "This indicates what we have been saying. Mgr Heim's statement was made in his own capacity and not in a formal capacity. Mgr Heim, however, insisted his views favouring multilateral disarmament were in line with the Pope's. Speaking from a clinic in West Germany where he is recovering from an operation, he said the Vatican was right in saying the letter had been his own initiative. "But what I said is the same as what the Pope has said about unilateral disarmament." The pronuncio, who is 72, said: "I stand by it all." Mgr Heim said he had not heard from the Vatican since his letter became public. He was still unwell and did not expect to return to Britain for some weeks.



Mgr Heim: Insists he shares the Pope's views

Soviet nuns stabbed to death in Israel

Mystery last night surrounded one of the most bizarre religious murders in the Holy Land in modern times, the killing of two Soviet nuns stabbed to death in the bedroom of their remote convent situated in this village near Jerusalem, birth place of John the Baptist. The murders have caused acute embarrassment to the Israeli Government because the Russian Orthodox Church, to which the nuns belonged, represents the only recognized Soviet presence on Israeli soil. The Ministry of the Interior immediately set up a special police squad to investigate the various macabre theories being circulated. Because of the Moscow base of the so-called "Red Russian" church at which the nuns worshipped, there have long been unsubstantiated rumours of KGB links with some of its followers living in Israel. The Russian religious compound where the stabbing took place has also been the target of attacks suspected of being carried out by Jewish fanatics. The most recent occurred only three months ago when an unsuccessful arson attempt against one of the buildings scattered in acres of Russian-owned land. The Russian Orthodox Church has long been in conflict with the White Russian Church, which broke its ties with Moscow after the Russian Revolution and now has bases in New York and Paris. For some time, opposing wings have been at loggerheads over the ownership of valuable property in the Holy Land. According to the police, the bloodstained bodies of the dead nuns, a 68-year-old mother and her 43-year-old daughter were discovered early yesterday. Syrian Mission page 6

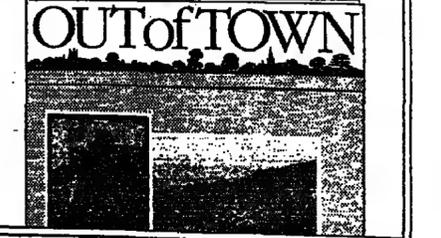
Albany prison rioters attack guards

Extra prison staff had to be sent into Albany high security prison in the Isle of Wight yesterday to quell prisoners who smashed cells and fittings in two wings. By the time order was restored one wing had been put of use and six prisoners and staff were reported injured. Last night 38 of the 280 prisoners in the establishment, which was purpose-built 15 years ago to house dangerous long-term category A inmates, were being moved to other prisons. Nine men, including four IRA inmates, were still demonstrating on the roof of B wing. The Home Office said the violence started during an exercise period when most prisoners were out of their cells. Prisoners began smashing B and C wings and guards were met by a hail of missiles. The perimeter was given extra guards, local police were alerted and specially trained teams arrived to deal with the disturbances. They forced their way into B wing, where one prison officer received a broken jaw and five prisoners were injured.

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Out of Town is the new monthly magazine for all who love the British countryside. It's full of informative features and superb colour photography. There's also The Country on Show, a unique what's-on listing of over 1,000 events taking place throughout Britain this bank holiday and in June. Get Out of Town magazine. At your newsagent now.

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY FOR 85p.



People Express to go ahead with cheap US flights next week

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

People Express, the cut-price US airline, announced yesterday that it will begin a \$99 Gatwick-New York service next Friday as a challenge to the Government to court electoral unpopularity by stopping it and in spite of a delayed decision by the Department of Trade.

Mr Harold Paretto, the airline's head of operations, said after a meeting with the private secretary of Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, that he had received assurances that the service would not be stopped and that British government permission was purely a formality.

However, the Department of Trade said: "We are aware that People Express wanted to start on May 26 but under the Bermuda Two Agreement with the United States we have 90 days to decide on an application, received only on April 11."

"We are not being bloody minded. We know People Express are anxious to get off quickly but we have no obligation to accede. There are serious matters to consider in

regard to this application—the viability and financial soundness of the airline and the future of the service."

Mr Paretto said that People Express, launched two years ago, already had a stock market valuation of \$400m and in the first quarter of this year had the highest earnings per share of any US airline.

He said that thousands of applications to fly on the cheap service were being received every day and the service was absolutely in line with Conservative policy. "Your Prime Minister is seeking re-election on a platform of fostering competition and our service is right in line with that," he said.

He attributed the delay to the low fare of \$99 which compares with £210 by other carriers. "When you put in for a higher fare these applications are quite simple because you are playing the cartel game," Mr Paretto said.

As fares are paid on board, passengers who book on Monday will not lose money if the permission does not come

through, Mr Paretto said. But he was confident that it would, on assurances from large numbers of people whom he declined to name, and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Several former Laker employees are involved in an attempt to set up a new airline, British Atlantic Airways, to operate one-class de-luxe business flights between Gatwick and New York later this year. They want to operate five flights a week with a DC10 at a single fare of £329, compared with £438 business class on other airlines and £964 first class.

The airline would be run by Mr Randolph Fields, aged 30, a US lawyer, who admits that he has no airline experience but is an "enthusiastic amateur".

British Airways and British Caledonian opposed the application at renewed hearings at the Civil Aviation Authority in London yesterday on the grounds that there is already over-capacity on the route and that British-US agreements prevent new entrants before 1985.



Begum Afia Hamid with her daughter, Asma, in London yesterday after hearing that they could stay in Britain (Photograph: Martin Mayer).

Stammering security guard is dismissed

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

A security guard who was dismissed for stammering has had his case taken up by the Labour Party in Huyton, Merseyside, after he complained to Sir Harold Wilson, then MP for Huyton.

Mr Keith Gallagher, aged 25, who has had a speech defect since he was 12, lost his job with Alseure Guards after six weeks, and was told he might be reemployed if he could cure his stammer.

But Mr Gallagher, who gave up speech therapy sessions to take the job as a patrolling security guard, said: "I know there is no chance of that happening for at least five years."

On May 5 he received a letter of dismissal telling him his speech impediment would affect his ability to do the job. It was signed by Mr Ray Edgell, the Manchester-based company's personnel manager, who had originally interviewed him for the job.

"They knew full well I had a speech impediment," Mr Gallagher said. "My interview lasted over an hour and a half and I stammered quite a lot during that. How speak has got nothing to do with the job."

Mr Gallagher, of Hurst Park Drive, Huyton, received his cards from the firm on Wednesday. "It seems there is nothing I can do about it," he said.

Mr Eugene Douglas, Alseure's general manager, refused to comment yesterday.

New suns forming near Earth

The Science and Engineering Research Council said yesterday that six or seven stars like the Sun are forming within dark dust clouds in the Earth's galaxy.

The discovery was made through the Inas infrared satellite, which was also involved in the detection of the new comet that passed the Earth last week.

The new suns, known as protostars, are no more than a million years old. Astronomers say they are similar to what our Sun was like during its early stages of formation, 4,600 million years ago. They are about 1,000 light years from Earth, a relatively short distance in galactic terms, since our galaxy covers about 100,000 light years.

Scientists believe that because the protostars are like the early Sun, planets may be forming round them. The new suns are still enshrouded in gas and dust and only a faint glow was detected by the infrared telescope on board the satellite.

In less than a million years it may be possible to see them in visible light.

Justice seen in action

Eighteen magistrates and lawyers from Venice, paying a visit to a court in London yesterday, saw British justice in action outside it.

As they walked out of Marlborough Street Magistrates' court the Italians found the police had clamped up their cars, parked on a yellow line.

£50,000 fine cut to £5,000

A "deterrent" £50,000 fine on Bernard Coral, former head of a London casino group, for conspiring to breach the Gaming Act, 1968, was reduced to £5,000 by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Justice Lawton said that the offences which brought Coral to court were stale, and that London casinos had already been brought under control by the Gaming Board and police in the late 1970s. There was no need for a deterrent penalty and the fine, imposed last year, was out of line.

Rector cleared of boy's death

Mr Geoffrey Lester, the rector of Bath Abbey, was cleared of blame yesterday for an accident in which Lee Nazer, aged 12, died after his bicycle ran into the path of Mr Lester's car near the boy's home in the Paragon, Bath.

Mr Lester told an inquest at Bath that the boy appeared to lose control of his bicycle, which left the pavement. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Lake District offer rejected

The Forestry Commission has rejected the offer by the Friends of the Lake District to buy its 370-acre estate at Grassguards in Dunnerdale, in the Lake District National Park.

The friends offered to purchase the estate to try to prevent the planting of a coniferous forest in the park; a scheme which had drawn 2,000 letters from objectors.

£50,000 raid

Three hooded armed men stole a £50,000 in a raid on a security van in Green Lanes, Enfield, north London, yesterday.

Airlines lose round in Laker case

By Our Transport Editor

British Airways and British Caledonian lost the latest round yesterday in their fight against a £600m suit being brought by Laker liquidators in the United States courts.

In a High Court ruling in London Mr Justice Parker dismissed their applications for injunctions to prevent the case going ahead in America but granted a temporary injunction pending an appeal.

The two airlines, with Pan Am and Trans World, Lufthansa, Swissair, Sabena, KLM, and the United States plane manufacturers, McDonnell Douglas, are accused by the liquidators of conspiring to bring Laker down, and face both grand jury indictment and huge civil damages for alleged offences against anti-trust laws.

They deny the charge, and the British Government has objected to proceedings in the United States in regard to actions between British companies. The United States Government has refused to withdraw its indictment, and a further meeting is to be held between United States and Department of Trade officials in London next week.

Yesterday's ruling said there was no reason why the civil action should not proceed too.

Mr Christopher Morris, the Laker liquidator, said he was pleased with the ruling.

Earlier this month a US judge ruled that the case should be heard there, mainly because Britain did not have the equivalent of US antitrust laws. It would be an injustice to creditors not to have recourse to US courts. Mr Justice Parker ruled yesterday that from the British point of view there seemed nothing unjust in allowing the US action to proceed.

British Airways said last night: "Subject to detailed study of the terms of the judgment, we intend to appeal." British Caledonian also said there was the possibility of an appeal.

Law Report, Page 8

Judgment deferred on league donation

Legal action to force the Labour Party to repay an £80,000 gift from the League Against Cruel Sports would never have been brought if Labour had won the 1979 general election, counsel for the league argued in the High Court yesterday.

Labour would have banned hunting and the league's main aim would have been fulfilled, Mr Isaac Jacob told Mr Justice Mervyn Davies.

Mr Jacob was contesting an action brought against the Labour Party and the league and its executive committee by Mrs Janet Simmonds, of Stratton Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mrs Simmonds, a league member, alleges that the executive committee exceeded its powers in making the donation to Labour general election funds.

Mr Jacob said that the Labour Party's election promise

to ban hunting by law was the "best possible way of achieving the league's aims".

If Labour had won and banned hunting, the league's gift would have achieved its aim. "The proof of the pudding would have been in the eating," he said.

Mrs Simmonds is the wife of Mr Hugh Simmonds, a solicitor who was dropped as prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Cambridgeshire, South-west last month after her affiliation to the league became known. He was in court acting for his wife.

Mr Jacob said that £30,000 of the gift was given to fund a Labour booklet on cruelty to animals. That was in line with the league's powers to give money for publicizing its aims.

Legal submissions were concluded and Mr Justice Mervyn Davies said that he would give his decision later, probably next week.

'Reform long jury trial'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Reform of excessively long jury trials, which imposed "an intolerable strain" on judges, juries and defendants, was urged by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, in Torquay yesterday.

He told the annual conference of the Justices' Clerks' Society that certain trials such as big City fraud cases and insurance swindles lasted six or nine months.

"The reasons are partly babil, laziness on the part of advocates who fail to see the point and stick to it, and partly it grows upon itself."

Another reason, he said, was the complexity of cases.

Lord Lane said that possibly the most attractive answer was to have a judge with commercial and criminal experience sitting with two lay assessors.

They would have to give reasons for their conclusions on facts and those reasons would be subject to review by a court of appeal. That might in the end produce a more just system.

But the chance of obtaining the reform was remote. "There are no votes in changing the jury system, as there are no votes in building more prisons."

Deportation of widow deferred

The Home Office yesterday postponed the deportation of a Bangladeshi widow aged 19 and her daughter, aged two, after, last-minute pleas that she should be allowed to stay, Nicholas Timmins writes.

Begum Afia Hamid and her daughter, Asma, were due to have been flown to Dacca today. Begum Hamid was granted an entry certificate to come to Britain in January last year to join her husband, Mr Abdul Hamid, who was legally settled in Britain. Before she arrived he died in a fire at his home near Brick Lane, East London.

According to the Home Office, his body was flown back to Bangladesh for burial and when Begum Hamid arrived in Britain last June she was admitted only temporarily to settle her husband's affairs.

£100m flats for elderly

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

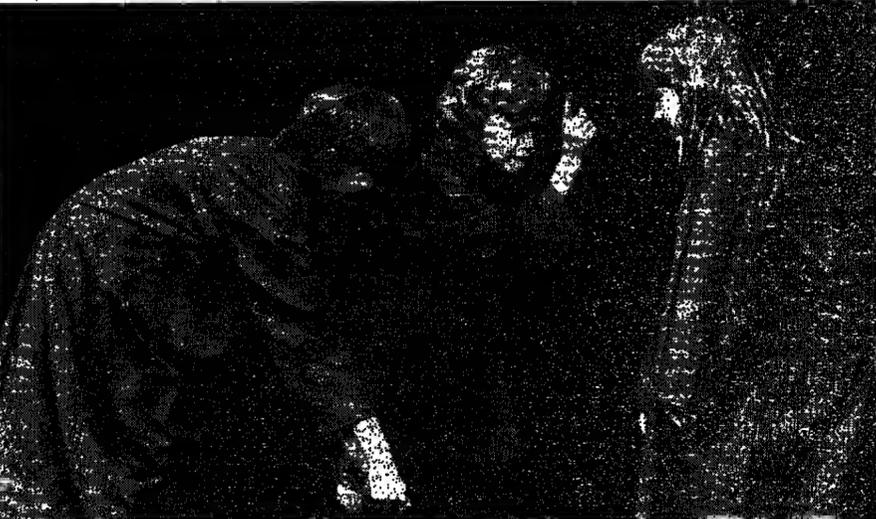
A £100m expansion to provide private sector homes for the elderly was unveiled yesterday by McCarthy and Stone, one of the leading sheltered housing companies. The company aims at doubling construction of retirement homes by the end of this year and creating 1,000 jobs. Mr John McCarthy, chairman and managing director, said work will have started on about 1,650 flats on 35 different sites and next year construction is expected to begin on a further 2,500 homes for the elderly.

It is believed there are 11 million people over the age of 60 in Britain, yet few of the main builders have attempted to construct homes for men and

women approaching retirement. McCarthy and Stone has specialized in this area of the market for the past seven years, mainly in southern England. The expansion means it will be developing sites across the country.

The company provides mainly single person homes with communal services and a resident warden. Average prices are about £24,000, with some costing £19,000 and others up to £35,000.

The flats are sold on 99-year leases and occupancy is restricted to people over the age of 60, but they can be purchased by younger people on behalf of parents.



Deaf children rehearsing yesterday for a festival of mime at the Unicorn Children's Theatre, in London (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Double rapist gets two life sentences

Kevin Deterville, aged 19, a rapist described as a "continuing menace to women", was given two life sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The accused, who admitted raping two women and indecently assaulting a third after escaping from custody, was told by Mr David Tudor Price, the Common Serjeant: "If and when you cease to be a menace to the public you can be released."

Deterville, of Chiswick Lane, Chiswick, west London, had pleaded guilty to what the judge described as a "catalogue of crime", 11 offences, including the two rapes, the indecent assault and robbery on a third woman and theft, burglary, escape from custody and assaulting a prison officer.

The judge said probation officers expressed apprehension about an early release for

Deterville, who they said had shown no regret or remorse and was a continuing danger to women.

Mr Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said Deterville raped his first victim on April 5 last year. "The woman, aged 20, was grabbed in a street in Chiswick at 12.30 am. He hit her repeatedly, forced her to go to a park and raped her."

The second attack occurred on September 6. A woman aged 20 living in a ground floor flat in Chiswick woke up about 1 am. Deterville was crouching over her. She felt a knife sticking in her ribs. He raped her, leaving her in a "terrible state".

Deterville escaped from Acton Magistrates' Court on September 22 after biting a prison officer. He was arrested while hiding in a back garden in Acton after being seen climbing out of a house.

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Getting away from it all

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

A man who knocked on the door of Cardiff prison asking to be allowed in to serve a six-year sentence apologized yesterday to a judge at Cardiff Crown Court for jumping bail the day before he was sentenced.

Peter Langlois, aged 36, director of a window installation company, told Judge Michael Gibbons, who had sentenced him in his absence, why he had absconded the day before his five-week trial for

organizing a £37,000 robbery ended.

"I just wanted to get away for a few days. My mind was not right at the time."

His decision to give himself up on Thursday ended an anxious fortnight for four sureties who had put up £30,000 bail on his behalf.

The judge ruled that they would not forfeit their money. He added a month to be served concurrently to Langlois's sentence, for jumping bail.

Union chiefs in move to play down Chapple backing for SDP man

Trade union leaders yesterday agreed among themselves not to take retaliatory action against Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians union leader and chairman of the TUC, for his public endorsement of a Social Democratic Party parliamentary candidate in London.

The decision was taken after Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing President of the National Union of Mineworkers, had demanded the dismissal of Mr Chapple as TUC chairman for backing Mr John Grant, SDP candidate in Islington North.

The TUC general council meets next Wednesday as the election campaign tempo mounts, and Mr Scargill yesterday promised to "argue powerfully" for the removal of Mr Chapple from the chair.

But in private contacts yesterday senior figures in the labour movement decided that no good would be served by prolonging the political embarrassment, thereby effectively isolating Mr Scargill in his anti-Chapple campaign.

In an unusual intervention, Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, said last night: "It is quite wrong for

anybody to try to associate the TUC with Mr Chapple's statement on the election in North Islington.

"He made it perfectly clear that these remarks were entirely his own responsibility and were not in any sense issued in his capacity as this year's chairman of the TUC General Council."

The moguls of the labour movement are confident of having limited the damage within their own ranks, but the Chapple affair is likely to have further repercussions in the wider election campaign.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, said in his daily press conference yesterday that the "TUC chairman's message endorsing Mr Grant as a man of integrity" was "ill advised". Mr Chapple must know that his letter to the SDP candidate was not approved by the overwhelming majority of the labour movement.

SDP leaders naturally were delighted at this unexpected slip for their candidate in a Labour stronghold, where Mr Grant, a defector from Labour, is fighting a full-time official of the National Union of Public Employees, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, aged 34.

Mrs Shirley Williams, President of the Social Democrats, told the SDP-Liberal Alliance press conference that Mr Chapple would have been aware of Alliance plans for trade union reform before endorsing Mr Grant, as the SDP-Liberal programme had been sent to all TUC leaders.

She pointed out that five trade union officials were standing as Alliance candidates.

Mr Chapple cannot be dismissed from the TUC general council because he was elected by the whole of congress last September for a one-year term. He could only be removed from the chairmanship by a successful vote of "no confidence" among its 42 members, and the prospect of that evaporated last night.

The union leaders are angry about his embarrassing and potentially damaging action but agree that it would be even more disruptive to allow the public wrangling to continue.



All aboard: Mr Michael Foot with his dog, Dizzy, setting out for Sussex yesterday from Victoria station, London.

Tories leak Howe's cost estimate of Labour promises

The Conservative Party Research Department yesterday jumped the gun on Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, by "leaking" an alleged Treasury costing of Labour's manifesto promises, which he was saving for next week.

Sir Geoffrey, at the Conservatives' morning press conference at Westminster, played the traditional gambit of inviting his opponents to say what their plans would cost. It was a vital issue in this campaign, he said.

Mr Michael Foot had said that Labour's emergency programme to be launched in its first budget would cost £11bn, but that was only part of its programme for a full Parliament.

If Mr Michael Foot and Mr Peter Shore, the Shadow Chancellor, did not publish by Monday detailed costings of Labour's promises for a full five-year Parliament, the Conservatives would do it for them.

While Sir Geoffrey spoke, the Conservatives were distributing the second issue of their campaign briefing "Daily Notes", which said that the Treasury had estimated that Labour's proposal would cost "an additional £39bn a year over five years, as well as £47bn in one-off expenditure. They would have to raise the equivalent of £700 from every man, woman and child in Britain."

Labour's social security plans alone would cost £28bn a year, the briefing said, with about £21bn spent on reimbursing shareholders in firms taken over by the state and more than £20bn on municipalizing private rented housing.

Treasury officials were wary yesterday about being drawn into political argument and would make no comment on the figures. It was acknowledged, however, that routine work was in progress at the Treasury as in other departments on the policy and financial implications of each party's manifesto promises so that the government machine would be ready for any incoming administration.

But officials appear to believe that the Conservative Research Department's estimates are too high by about £11bn.

Mr Shore yesterday called on Sir Geoffrey to let him "inspect the books" in a swift response to what he called the "phony challenge" from the Chancellor to the Opposition to cost Labour's long-term programme, the Press Association reports.

"What I and the country would like to see now is Sir Geoffrey Howe's medium-term forecast for 1983-88 and the think tank study for the period up to 1990 which was presented to ministers less than a year ago", Mr Shore said.

Geoffrey Smith



COMMENT

Mrs Thatcher began her campaign proper yesterday morning when she took the chair at the first of the regular Conservative news conferences. It was a significant occasion in the election, because so much will turn on the reaction to Mrs Thatcher personally. It is not simply British politics at the moment, but also that she personifies the appeal that the Conservatives evidently have for the voters at this time.

Just about every success that the Government has had can be attributed to will-power, indeed the quality and determination that the Government breathes has been more impressive than its overall record of achievement.

If the Conservatives win this election, as all the polls suggest that they will, it will be because they convey a much stronger impression than the other parties of knowing precisely what they mean to do. It is a style especially associated with Mrs Thatcher.

But will the voters still be impressed with her strength and authority after another three weeks of campaigning, or might they by then find her very assurance grating on their nerves? It must be one of the principal objectives of the Conservative campaign to guard against that risk.

From that point of view, yesterday's press conference was a success. Mrs Thatcher gave a commanding performance, without becoming either dull or boring. Occasional "waspish" slips were evident, but not more than may be regarded as permissible to a politician under the pressure of critical questioning. She dealt masterfully with Mr Healey's accusation of lying about unemployment, without succumbing to what must have been the temptation to become involved in a slanging match with him.

She even remembered on one or two occasions to refer questions to Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Patrick Jenkin, who were with her on the platform. The desired impression of a Cabinet of colleagues might have been conveyed still more effectively if, after asking Sir Geoffrey for his comments on one question, she had then chatted to Mr Jenkin during Sir Geoffrey's answer. Neither they, nor the party chairman, Mr Cecil Parkinson, who was also on the platform, thought of chatting while she was speaking.

One cannot yet be convinced that the Conservatives will avoid the trap of seeming to rely too heavily on her as the campaign progresses. Central Office appears strangely reluctant to publicize the activities of other Cabinet ministers. It is not possible to get their speaking engagements for more than three days ahead, a practice which, if it is continued throughout the campaign, will inevitably result in media attention being focused even more than it otherwise would be on Mrs Thatcher.

A party that is consistently well ahead in the polls always needs to guard against the danger of appearing to back in its own popularity. It has to remain sensitive, even as it feels itself to be cruising to victory, to the preoccupations of particular sections of the electorate. The Conservative private polls, for example, have not been showing the usual evidence of the party having more appeal for women than men.

That seems to be partly because women are naturally particularly worried about unemployment because they see the effects on family and friends. More of them are liable to fear the risks of nuclear war. But another surprising reason has emerged: why the Conservatives have not been doing quite so well as they might have expected among women voters: they are not being given the full credit for the Government's achievement on inflation. A number of women have apparently felt that the claims of declining inflation must be bogus because they do not find prices going down in the shops.

That ought not to be a problem beyond the powers of Conservative publicists. But it is a reminder of the bizarre even the most assured political campaign. At the moment the Conservative position is strong, Mrs Thatcher's authority is evident, her manner remains unruffled. But there are still nearly three weeks to go before June 9.

Reject false, easy choices, Steel says

The decision to vote for the SDP/Liberal Alliance would be a difficult one for the voters to take, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said in Chelmsford last night.

The Alliance was asking the electorate to make an effort of mind, to think hard and to choose a new and difficult path instead of an old and easy one. But the easy choices were false ones.

It would be easy but false to choose between curing inflation and curing unemployment. Any government could cure inflation by making several million people unemployed. Any government could cure unemployment by printing money and causing runaway inflation. The difficult path was to combine stable prices with full employment via an incomes policy.

On defence, Mr Steel said it was easy, but false to choose between seeking peace by throwing away weapons or by arming to the teeth. It was far more difficult to maintain a prudent level of conventional arms and to reduce by skilful planning and disarmament negotiation Britain's over-dependence on nuclear arms.

It would be similarly false to choose between tough management and tough unions but more difficult, and more correct, to build an industrial partnership, Mr Steel said.

He was speaking in support of Mr Stuart Mole, the Liberal candidate in Chelmsford, where the seat was last held by Mr Norman St John-Stevens for the Conservatives. The Alliance sees a good chance of a breakthrough.

Earlier, Mr Steel made a brief stop in Southend to support Mr Gavin Grant, the Alliance candidate.

Benn woos elderly voters

Mr Wedgwood Benn, in his first campaign speech, yesterday put forward plan to catch the pensioners' vote and called for an open education system.

Speaking to a Labour group meeting at Bristol University, a few miles from the marginal Bristol, East, seat he hopes to win, he outlined what he said socialism "is all about".

That included offering coal free to the Central Electricity Generating Board to provide cut-price heating to pensioners, and free television licences and train travel for them.

He also criticized the education system: "I do not believe in the rubbish of 'O' and 'A' levels. The whole idea of education being a ladder which gets harder to climb is a fraud to ration out jobs."

Eagerness to seek votes in the marginal constituencies led yesterday to a political "near-miss" involving a former Conservative Prime Minister and Labour's present prime ministerial candidate.

Mr Edward Heath and Mr Michael Foot found themselves campaigning only yards apart in the main shopping centre of Crawley, West Sussex. Mr Heath was there first but was quickly up-staged as the Foot campaign bandwagon swept to a bandstand in the middle of the centre where an open-air meeting started.

Mr Heath, asked if he was at all worried by Mr Foot's presence, replied: "This is a free country; he can do what he wants. He is entitled to have his own meeting up there."

"I do not want to hear what he has to say, I have heard it so often before. There is nothing new about it," he said, as the presence of the television cameras around him began to attract some of the crowd from Mr Foot.

The Labour leader, meanwhile, did a quick run-through of his standard speech which concentrates on the evils of unemployment and nuclear weapons. He then asked his crowd for "three cheers for a Labour victory so that Ted Heath can hear that we are going to win the election."

As he was leaving the shopping centre, Mr Foot said that he did not think Mr Heath would be too unhappy with his speech "because he wants to get rid of Mrs Thatcher almost as much as I do".

Labour hopes to win Crawley, which is a marginal, back from the Conservatives and Mr Foot visited a manufacturing process plant to talk to the workers and later held a factory gate meeting outside an electronics plant.

His campaign procession then left from Brighton which, to his aides surprise, was decked out in blue and white. Their fears that a welcome had been arranged for Mr Heath were short-lived when they learned that the local football team had an important engagement at Wembley today.

Mr Foot's visit was to support Mr Rod Fitch, the candidate for the Kempton constituency, who makes no secret of his support for the Militant Tendency.

Marginal sees Heath and Foot

From David Felton Labour Reporter

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'Time Out' may sue Tebbit

The London magazine Time Out is considering legal action against Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, over his reaction to its story about a "leaked" report by the Central Policy Review Staff, on unemployment trends.

The story, which provoked a political row on Thursday when Mr Denis Healey, deputy leader of the Labour Party, accused the Government of "lying" about unemployment, was strongly criticized by Mr Tebbit in a statement issued through Conservative central office.

He said that Time Out's version of the "Think Tank" report was "grossly distorted by selective censorship". After pointing out an incomplete quotation by the magazine, Mr Tebbit added: "No more need be said of the veracity of Time Out hacks or their accomplice Mr Healey."

Yesterday, Time Out claimed that his remarks were "extremely defamatory" and an attack on its journalists' credibility and professionalism.

Mr Don Atyeo, the editor, said that Mr Tebbit himself had misquoted the report, and added: "Tebbit does not answer any of the other allegations in the article. In the circumstances we have no alternative but to place the matter with our lawyers."

Mr David Rose, the writer of the article, denied that he had assisted Mr Healey in any way, or had any direct contact with him.

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Deadline for unionist deal

By Richard Ford

Hopes of an electoral pact between Northern Ireland's rival unionist parties in six marginal seats hung in the balance last night with the Official Unionists in two constituencies refusing to stand aside for the Democratic Unionist Party.

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists have set a noon deadline today for any deal with their rivals, but such is the element of bluff and counter-bluff in the negotiation that it may continue until nominations close on Monday.

Unless agreement is reached the unionist vote in six seats where the nationalists have a majority will be split with the prospect of either the Social Democratic and Labour Party or the Provisional Sinn Fein taking victory. The Democratic Unionist was a clear run in Foyle, West Belfast, and Mid-Ulster but it is understood the Official Unionist candidate in West Belfast does not wish to withdraw. Mr William Thompson, the party's association chairman in Mid-Ulster, said they will select a candidate.

"Under no circumstances will we accept a DUP candidate in mid-Ulster and we will oppose him," Mr Thompson said. The Democratic Unionists had "gone ahead and handing in nomination papers."

If the unionist vote is split in Newry and Armagh and South Down the SDLP could win both seats, bringing the defeat of Mr Enoch Powell, standing in South Down, who is a close colleague of Mr James Molyneux, the Official Unionist leader.

The Scottish and Welsh nationalist parties instructed their solicitors today to seek counsel's advice on action to ensure the two parties are represented fully at local and national level during election news and current affairs programmes and in party political broadcasts the Press Association reports.

The decision was announced in London by Mr Gordon Wilson, the Scottish National Party leader, and Mr Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru.

"Both Plaid Cymru and the SNP have largely been ignored in the news bulletins and we have largely been omitted from discussion and magazine programmes," Mr Wilson said.

UK wasting £1m a day on EEC, Heffer says

By Our Political Staff

Britain's £5,000m trading deficit with the other members of the European Community was destroying our industries, Mr Eric Heffer, Labour's spokesman on Europe, said yesterday.

Britain was pouring £1m a day into the EEC coffers, most of which went towards a wasteful and immoral common agricultural policy.

Mr Heffer was replying to a statement by Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who said in an interview with The Times this week that Labour's plan to withdraw from the EEC would create chaos in the steel, textile and farming industries.

The Community's steel policy had resulted in a five-fold increase in unemployment in steel, Mr Heffer said. Textile imports from the rest of the Community had increased by 23 per cent last year and, under the rules, Britain could do little to reverse the trend.

"Clearing up this mess will be the responsibility of the next Labour government. It is a task the Tories have run away from," Mr Heffer said.

TABLE OF POLLS

How the chief opinion polls have reflected party fortunes since March

| Field Work Dates | Poll | Sample Size | C | Lab | Alliance | Others | C lead |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------|------|----------|--------|--------|
| March 17-21 | Gallup (Daily Telegraph) | 894 | 39.5 | 28.5 | 29 | 3 | 10.5 |
| 21-23 | Marplan (Guardian) | 1,217 | 42 | 28.5 | 28 | 1.5 | 13.5 |
| 17-23 | MORI (Daily Express) | 1,878 | 43 | 28 | 28 | 1 | 15 |
| 24-29 | NOP | 1,584 | 44 | 34 | 20 | 2 | 10 |
| April | | | | | | | |
| 6-11 | Gallup (Daily Telegraph) | 897 | 40.5 | 35 | 22.5 | 2 | 5.5 |
| 7-12 | MORI (Standard) | 1,825 | 43 | 34 | 22 | 1 | 9 |
| 7-12 | NOP (Birmingham Post) | 1,948 | 47 | 30 | 22 | 1 | 17 |
| 11-13 | Marplan (Guardian) | 1,506 | 43 | 32 | 22 | 2 | 11 |
| 13-19 | NOP (Birmingham Post) | 1,900 | 46 | 32.5 | 19.5 | 2 | 13.5 |
| 17-23 | MORI (Daily Star) | 1,781 | 46 | 33 | 20 | 1 | 13 |
| 21-25 | MORI (Sunday Times) | 1,216 | 46 | 30 | 23 | 2 | 15 |
| 25-27 | Marplan (People & Power) | 1,447 | 43.5 | 31 | 24 | 1.5 | 12.5 |
| May | | | | | | | |
| 4-6 | Gallup (Daily Telegraph) | 971 | 49 | 31.5 | 17.5 | 2 | 17.5 |
| 5 | Observer (Observer) | 1,053 | 46 | 38 | 15 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | NOP (Mail On Sunday) | 1,058 | 47 | 34 | 18 | 1 | 13 |
| 8 | MORI (Panorama) | 1,090 | 45 | 34 | 20 | 1 | 11 |
| 9-11 | MORI (Standard) | 1,824 | 46 | 32 | 22 | 0 | 14 |
| 9-11 | Marplan (Guardian) | 1,457 | 46 | 34 | 19 | 1 | 12 |
| 10 | MORI (Star) | 1,047 | 46 | 31 | 21 | 2 | 15 |
| 11 | Harris (Thomas TV) | 1,048 | 52 | 31 | 17 | 0 | 21 |
| 11-16 | Gallup (Daily Telegraph) | 946 | 46 | 33 | 19 | 2 | 13 |
| 12 | MORI (Express) | 954 | 49 | 34 | 15 | 2 | 15 |
| 18 | MORI (Star) | 1,090 | 44 | 37 | 17 | 2 | 7 |
| 18 | Audience Selection (TV-AM - phone) | 1,154 | 46 | 31 | 21 | 2 | 15 |
| 18-17 | NOP (Mail) | 1,584 | 49 | 31 | 19 | 1 | 18 |
| 17 | Audience Selection (The Sun phone) | 507 | 44 | 33 | 21 | 2 | 11 |
| 19 | MORI (Express phone) | 1,100 | 46 | 37 | 16 | 1 | 9 |
| 17-18 | HARRIS Research (TV-EYE) | 1,053 | 45 | 35 | 17 | 3 | 10 |
| General election - May 1979 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 45 | 38 | 14 | 3 | 7 |

Post votes plea

Three hundred Stirling University students may be allowed postal votes if a sheriff's court allows the appeal by six students against a decision by Central Region's electoral registration officer that they cannot have postal votes as they will be on holiday on polling day.

Benefits promise

A Labour Government would immediately raise child benefit by £2 a week, single pensions by £1.45 a week, and a couple's pension by £2.25 a week, Mr George Foulkes, Labour candidate for Carrick, Cumnock and Doonee Valley said yesterday.

Dracula charge

Mr Eric Varley, Labour spokesman on employment, told potters union workers in Torquay yesterday that putting Mr Norman Tebbit in charge of employment "was like putting Dracula in charge of the blood transfusion service."

37 seats where ethnic minority can swing vote

Ethnic minorities hold the key to 37 constituencies, according to a report issued yesterday by the Runnymede Trust. It defines these "ethnic marginals" as seats with a 5% or more ethnic minority electorate which would switch from Tory to Labour with a 5% swing.

It lists the 37 as Brentford and Isleworth, Croydon NW, Dulwich, Fulham, Hampstead and Highgate, Hornsey and Wood Green, Hord S, Luton S, Westminster N, Battersea, Birmingham Hodge Hill, Birmingham Perry Barr, Blackburn, Brent E, Derby S, Ealing N, Edmonton, Feltham & Heston, Hammsmith, Hayes & Harlington, Huddersfield, Leicester E, Leicester S, Leicester W, Lewisham E, Lewisham W, Leyton, Mitcham & Morden, Norwood, Nottingham E, Richdale, Slough, Stratford, Tooting, Walsall S, Walthamstow, Wolverhampton N.E.

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Lord George-Brown returned to the Hustings yesterday. But although he proved he still has the popular touch he faced something of an identity crisis. Many people were unaware that the former Labour deputy leader is now a member of the SDP.

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The bad weather and the election are giving a big boost to the sale of continental holidays, Mr Tony Ward, director of John Hill Travel, one of the largest British operators on the Algarve, said yesterday.

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BROADCASTING Influence v control

By Barbara Day

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, on Labour's proposals for local authority control of the police: "I am all for influence. Influence is right. But if you control you will do something of irreparable damage to this country. You will, in fact, stop impartial enforcement of the law which is crucial to our constitution and that is what the Labour party would destroy."

On hanging, he promised a free vote for MPs but rejected the idea of a referendum. If Parliament and a referendum came to different conclusions, there could be great constitutional difficulties. (BBC "Election Call")

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, on the abolition of metropolitan councils and the GLC said: "The extravagance of some of their expenditure, particularly under their recent Labour control, had really put very serious hedges on a lot of people up and down the country and on the ratepayers in their areas."

The Conservatives were pledged to extend the right to buy and he was proud that a million more people were now living in their own homes.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour spokesman on the environment, said Labour did not want to stop people buying their houses, provided the local council was willing to sell. It was wrong to force them to sell.

Mr John Cartwright, for the SDP-Liberal Alliance, said: "We want a simple system of one-tier local government in this country and all my experience of working in local government has taught me that if you have two you build in duplication, bureaucracy, frustration and waste."

There should be a reform of local government finance, a move towards local income tax and a reduction of the dependence of local authorities on central government grant. (TV: "Good Morning Britain")

The Prime Minister, said: "The retail price index figure today was a very good one. There had been a forecast that inflation might be up a little by the end of the year because of what happened to the exchange rate. Now since then the exchange rate has risen, which helps, and of course if we get back in I believe it would rise further."

"But even the figure to which Geoffrey Howe expected it to rise, which was 6 per cent, was a far better figure than any achieved by the last Labour Government."

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, on inflation being curbed at a heavy price, said: "It is not so much that we are paying something for curbing inflation. The real point is a lot of the unemployment which we have today is the price of not curbing inflation in the past." (BBC: "News After Noon")

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Congress heads for clash with Reagan over cuts in defence budget

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A new confrontation between the White House and Congress seemed imminent yesterday after the approval by the Republican-controlled Senate of a budget for the financial year 1984 that would raise taxes and cut defence spending.

President Reagan has threatened to veto any measures that would substantially raise taxes.

The compromise which the Senate eventually approved late on Thursday night after throwing out four earlier budget plans would raise tax by \$9,000m (£6,000m) in 1984 and by a total of \$73,000m over the next three years.

The Senate's \$848,700m budget would also hold the increase in defence spending at 6 per cent, compared with the 10 per cent increase that the Administration is seeking. The Senate's budget plan envisages a deficit of \$179,000m, whereas the Administration's budget proposal would leave a deficit of more than \$192,000m.

The House of Representatives has already approved a budget plan which contains even larger increases and a lower level of defence spending. The House version calls for an increase of \$30,000m in increased taxes during 1984 and only a 4 per cent rise in defence spending.

The Senate and House versions now go to conference committee, which will probably begin next week, to work out a compromise to send to the President. Senator Lawton Chiles, the ranking democrat on the Senate Budget committee, said he thought the conference would probably settle on a 5 per cent increase for defence and a tax increase in the region of \$9,000m.

If as seems likely, President Reagan uses his veto, the whole process has to begin all over again just as it did last year. This is likely to mean that the end of the fiscal year will be reached without agreement on a budget and the Federal Government will again have to rely on continuing resolutions to remain in business.

Thursday night's vote represents a tactical victory for Republican moderates in the Senate who joined with 33 democrats to secure the one vote victory.

The looming confrontation between Congress and the Administration on the shape of the 1984 budget will have an unsettling effect on money markets and on the US's main allies. The size of the deficit is likely to be a point of contention at next week's economic summit in Williamsburg.

At the Geneva negotiations on medium-range missiles, the United States is now trying to ascertain the concrete significance of Mr Yuri Andropov's offer, made on May 3, to count the warheads of both sides rather than the missiles.

The Soviet party leader did not give specific numbers but had previously offered to reduce Soviet missiles to 162 SS20s—the calculated total of British and French nuclear missiles—provided the US did not deploy Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

Subsequently, published Soviet assessments put the total of British and French warheads at more than 400, whereas the Western figures are 290.

Mr Paul Nitze, the chief American negotiator, yesterday briefed Nato ambassadors in Brussels on the fifth round of these talks, which had resumed on Tuesday. The council reaffirmed its strong support for the US interim proposal for lower equal levels of Soviet and American land-based missiles, and called on the Soviet Union to respond constructively.

The Soviet side does not appear to be ready to discuss numbers as yet, according to Nato officials. Suggestions that these might eventually be in the region of 300 warheads on each side—a figure widely believed to have been agreed during an informal talk between Mr Nitze and Mr Yuri Kvitinsky, the chief Soviet negotiator, last summer—is considered to be near the mark.

Sakharov wife talks to press in street

From Richard Owen, Moscow

As Pravda denounced President Reagan for declaring today "Andre Sakharov's Day" in honour of the veteran Soviet dissident, Dr Sakharov's wife held a bizarre press conference in a Moscow street appealing for him to be allowed to come to Moscow for medical treatment.

Dr Sakharov, a distinguished nuclear physicist and winner of the Nobel peace prize, has been in internal exile in the closed town of Gorky, east of Moscow, for the past three years. His wife, Mrs Elena Bonner, travels between Gorky and Moscow, where the couple still have a flat to which Dr Sakharov is entitled as a member of the Academy of Sciences.

Mrs Bonner said yesterday that both she and her husband suffered from serious heart conditions. She had suffered a heart attack in Gorky at the end of April, and had gone for treatment to the Academy of Sciences' medical clinic in Moscow. Both she and Dr Sakharov felt "safe" in the academy's clinic, whereas in Gorky they were afraid to enter hospital in case somebody tried to kill them.

The academy clinic had offered to give her further treatment, but had refused to admit Dr Sakharov. "I cannot leave him alone for long," she said. "He has already had two mild heart attacks."

Mrs Bonner spoke to reporters while sitting on the window sill outside a bookshop in the block of flats which houses several Moscow VIPs and is situated on a busy and noisy street. She appeared distraught, and clutched a phial of pills.

When correspondents arrived for a press conference in Mrs Bonner's flat they found the way barred by two uniformed policemen and an unidentified broad-shouldered man in a shiny suit and dark glasses. She later emerged to hold an impromptu press conference on the pavement.

Mrs Bonner expressed gratitude to Norway and Austria for inviting Dr Sakharov. "We are grateful to all those who are trying to free Sakharov," she said.

Last week, after speculation that Dr Sakharov might emigrate to Vienna, Tass stated categorically that he would never be permitted to leave the Soviet Union because he had had access to state secrets in the past.

Mrs Bonner also thanked President Reagan for marking Dr Sakharov's sixty-second birthday today and described it as an "unprecedented honour".

Pravda said yesterday that "National Sakharov Day" in America proved that Dr Sakharov had become a "rank and file servant of American imperialism" and that Mr Reagan did not live "in the real world".

Washington wanted to discontinue other countries on human rights, but was ill qualified to do so when it supported repressive regimes and suppressed minorities in the United States.



Mrs Bonner: Window sill press conference.

Letter from Durban The beloved country gets out of mess

Scanning the lush rolling landscape of Natal which stretches in silence as far as the eye can see from Alan Paton's large bungalow north-west of Durban, the "angry old man" of South Africa's letters answered emphatically a question on the country's future.

"No, we have not reached the point of no return. People have been saying we have reached it for the past 50 years. I have not come to the conclusion that our fate will inevitably be revolutionary."

South Africa was not on the brink of a precipice. "We fool about carelessly near the brink."

He could not write *Cry the Beloved Country* today, he said.

"South Africa is not the same country as it was 30 years ago." Black people now had a higher standard of living and in the last few years more and more Afrikaners had begun to question the validity of the apartheid doctrine and were trying to break out of "the prison of Afrikaner nationalism".

Among them was Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister, who said on television recently that there was no place for such an ideology in South Africa. The logical conclusion, for Alan Paton, was that Mr Botha should give it up.

The Prime Minister realized that he could not stop at his constitutional proposals (which give some political rights to the coloured and Indian minorities only) and that he must go further.

Botha has said he wants a future in this country for every child, white, black, or Coloured. Alan Paton went on: "I think he is sincere. He wants to avoid the destruction of his own people by giving more freedom to others. He must have plans for the urban blacks."

Contrary to the arguments of some in South Africa, the economic development of the black population is a factor for peace and change, Mr Paton believes.

"There cannot be loyalty to a common cause when some people earn a quarter or a fifth of what others are earning. But as the standard of living rises there is more chance of a common loyalty (to South Africa) developing."

What did he think of Western boycotts against South Africa?

"I'm not in favour of cultural boycott, or boycott in sport," he replied. "I'm often asked in the United States what I think of an economic or trade boycott. My answer is that this is a question Americans have to decide for themselves—whether it is morally justified. It cuts both ways. Trade raises the living standards of the black people. It can also enable he whites to resist change. But a trade ban would hit us all—and would certainly hit the blacks much harder."

Mr Paton, a spry octogenarian, often paused quite a time before answering questions. He had to be careful, he said; he had often been mis-reported.

"The Afrikaners are trying to get out of the mess they got themselves into. But it could be argued that the British were responsible for it all. They united them through the Boer War."

Yet, he said, it was untrue that all English-speaking South Africans are blue-eyed liberals and that all Afrikaners are diehard reactionaries.

Double standards were often used—outside South Africa and by many left-wing intellectuals inside South Africa—in condemning the country's regime.

"They condemn South Africa but they do not condemn Communist countries. The fact is that South Africa is a parish country because the most emotional issue in the whole world is the white/black one. You can exterminate minorities by the millions—in Bangladesh, in the Sudan, in Brazil—and the world does not care. I myself am often accused of being a weak-kneed liberal intellectual because I live in South Africa, and have this large house."

But South Africa had changed. *Cry the Beloved Country* was now a prescribed book in the schools of Natal.

Charles Hargrove

Influential Walesa aide held

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Dr Bronislaw Geremek, one of Mr Lech Walesa's most influential advisers, has been arrested in the latest move aimed at restricting the political ambitions of the former Solidarity leader.

The Prosecutor-General's office has confirmed that Dr Geremek, a lecturer in medieval history, has been formally charged but refused to disclose details.

Informed sources say that the investigations of Dr Geremek centred on charges of belonging to an illegal organization and engaging in activities intended to disturb the public order.

The authorities seem to be alarmed at the meeting held recently between Mr Walesa and non-Solidarity union representatives, a meeting which Dr Geremek also attended.

The implication of the meeting—which resulted in a letter being sent to the Polish Parliament calling for an amnesty and the reinstatement of the former trade unions—was that Mr Walesa was trying to broaden the opposition to Government policies by talking to both the illegal underground and the formerly pro-Communist but now disbanded branch unions.

Dr Geremek's role in this new strategy of Mr Walesa's is not entirely clear. He is viewed by many observers as being one of the most moderate of the Solidarity leader's consultants.

Some Solidarity sympathizers therefore think that the arrest of Dr Geremek may be designed to push Mr Walesa into a radical corner, allowing the authorities to brand him as an extremist. The need to rule him out of the political game either on the grounds of his "vanity" or because of his "extremism" has gained considerable urgency because of the papal visit next month.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, has already made clear that a church hierarchy was thinking in terms of a meeting between the Pope and Mr Walesa, a meeting that could have far-reaching consequences.

Smith in South Africa on British passport

From Stephen Taylor in Harare

Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, flew out of Harare yesterday for South Africa bearing a new British Passport.

Speaking before his departure, Mr Smith said he expected to be away for about three weeks, but would return in time for the reopening of Parliament later next month. He is to have medical treatment in South Africa for an artery complaint.

Mr Smith, accompanied by his wife Janet, was earlier given assurances by the Zimbabwe Government that he would be prevented from leaving and would be allowed to return. Yesterday, he said he believed he might be turned back at the airport.

Mr Smith's Zimbabwe passport was seized in December after he had incurred government wrath over statements he made on visits to London and Washington. Two applications for his return were refused and in March he was issued with a British passport, approved under the terms of the nationality act.

Speaking at the airport, he said he would be under treatment for about a week and would stay in Harare for a couple of weeks on the advice of his doctor.

He had been intending to go earlier and had only delayed his departure to take part in a series of Senate elections. The most recent was for the seat of a close friend, Senator Paul Savage, who was murdered by gunmen on his Matabeland farm last month.

In response to questions about whether he might stay away permanently he said: "I have no intention of leaving this place."

He wanted to leave political life, he said, but the time was not yet right.



Happy birthday: Vice-President George Bush (left) and Senator Henry Jackson were among Capitol Hill admirers who helped Bob Hope celebrate his eightieth birthday.

Deflation policies blamed for threat to economies

From Ian Massay, Brussels

The main international institutions which govern the world economy are under threat because of the type of policy being followed by countries like Britain, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

In its economic report, prepared specifically in time for the Williamsburg, economic summit, the ICFTU, which represents 134 trade union organizations in the West including the TUC, criticises the way in which powerful industrial countries have provoked a depression and still show no signs of changing their policies to bring about a recovery.

This, the report claims, is undermining the authority of organizations like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The report is due to be discussed by the ICFTU congress in Oslo next month when one of the main speakers will be Mr Leo Murray, General Secretary of the TUC. In general terms it urges a collective agreement by industrialized countries to deflate. It argues that it is impossible to do this in isolation, as France did, but that done together such a policy would be bound to create employment and stamp out poverty.

The main points of the report were put to President Reagan in Washington last week by trade union leaders who had a meeting with him as he prepared for the summit. According to members of the trade union delegation, which included Mr Moss Evans, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, there are signs that the seriousness of the unemployment situation is causing a change of heart in leading countries.

Unemployment figures issued yesterday by the European Commission show a 2 per cent drop in the total number unemployed in the EEC in April, but a very slight rise in the seasonally adjusted figure, which shows the underlying unemployment trend.

US ready to resume F16 sales

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan yesterday asked Congress to approve the sale to Israel of 75 F16 jet fighters which he had blocked after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer. The Pentagon announced that Congress had been notified of the Administration's request to sell the aircraft at a cost of about \$2.7 billion (£1.8 billion).

The decision to lift the ban, imposed last June, comes after Israel's recent agreement with Lebanon to withdraw its troops and reports of an increased Soviet Military build-up in Syria, including the introduction of Sam 5 long range surface-to-air missiles.

President Reagan said publicly in March that he would not allow delivery of the aircraft until Israel withdrew its troops from Lebanon. Administration officials said that Israeli signature of the US-sponsored Israeli-Lebanese agreement was a factor in the President's decision.

A Pentagon official said that delivery was expected to begin in December 1986 and be completed by 1988. Israel already has 75 F16 fighters.

Agreement to the sale is expected to go through Congress easily because of strong sentiments in favour of Israel, which is a close ally of the United States. A Pentagon statement said: "This proposed sale is consistent with the United States policy of insuring that Israel has the means to defend itself within secure borders, should it become necessary." The sale would not affect the "basic military balance" in the Middle East.

Syria has already strongly condemned the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, and the lifting of the ban is bound to further anger Damascus.

The Reagan Administration is determined to continue its diplomatic efforts to get all the foreign forces—Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian—out of Lebanon. Israel had made clear it will withdraw its troops only if Syria and the PLO forces are also pulled out.

Syria tries to drum up Arab support

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Having trumpeted the Pan-Arab support which it assumed it would receive for its rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement, Syria now apparently feels so unsure of the backing of its Arab neighbours that it is sending two emissaries around the Middle East to explain President Assad's refusal to order his army out of Lebanon.

Mr Ahmad Haddad, Ahmad al-Information Minister, and Mr Faruk al-Shaar, a senior official in the Syrian Foreign Ministry, are leaving today for a tour of Arab capitals, carrying signed letters from President Assad to at least five heads of state.

Mr Iskander and Mr al-Shaar have wisely chosen not to visit the Arab nations which have already endorsed the agreement including Jordan, Oman, Egypt and Iraq, the nation with which Syria has its worst relations. The two men are, however, expected to spend some considerable time in Algeria which—although radically of Syria—this week also gave qualified support to the agreement.

The Damascus press has been announcing "worldwide support" for Syria, although closer inspection of the editorial columns shows that this apparent solidarity was made up of such nations as Vietnam, Yugoslavia and Iran, together with the Lebanese Communist Party and Syria's government-controlled trade unions—not on the face of it, the sort of allies to impress one's nearest Arab neighbours.

Kuwait was the only Gulf country to be cited in support of Syria, while the generally approving comments of other Gulf nations towards the plan have not been reported here.

Indeed, the city of Damascus scarcely lives up to the dramatic and belligerent tone of the country's own publicity machine. Television and radio reports warn of an imminent Israeli attack but the Syrian capital shows not the slightest sign of preparation for any kind of hostilities.

Nor have Western diplomats discovered any hard evidence to support the statement of Mr Casper Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, that Soviet troops have arrived in Syria to reinforce 3,000 advisers and 2,000 or so Soviet missile crew personnel already here.

The only Russians to be seen in Damascus can be observed in the bazaar, bagging with Damascus' loquacious merchants for silk and other cloth. Ironically, they are currently being outbid by groups of American tourists visiting the city's ancient mosques and saunas.

Meanwhile in Damascus last night, a dissident faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization's Fatah guerrilla movement claimed at a press conference that Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, had not yet settled the "ministry" of Fatah units in the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon.

Speaking on one of Fatah's Damascus offices spokesmen said that Mr Arafat should call an emergency meeting in Fatah to decide whether there was still confidence in his leadership.

"We are going under the leadership of Arafat if he follows our plans," one of his anonymous officials said. If not, Mr Arafat would no longer be considered the true leader of the movement.

CAIRO, Mr Philip Habib, of the US Special envoy, arrived here last night to discuss the Middle East situation. (Renner reports). He had similar talks with Saudi leaders before coming to Cairo.

Anti-apartheid leader offers to resign post

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr John Rees, the prominent Methodist layman fined 3,000 rands (about £1,700) and given a suspended 10-year sentence this week for fraud, has tendered his resignation as director of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

The executive committee is to meet today to consider whether to accept his resignation offer. Mrs Hazel Moolman, the institute's deputy director, said that acceptance was by no means automatic. The matter could be referred to a full council of the institute.

Earlier, the institute released a statement expressing sorrow at the conviction and sentencing of Mr Rees, and saying that he had been an honourable and respected director of the institute.

"His concern, support and dynamic leadership have won the loyalty and love of the staff," the statement said.

Mr Rees was found guilty of defrauding the South African Council of Churches of 296,000 rands during his time as general secretary. He contended that the money had been entrusted to him by overseas donors for the promotion of peaceful change in South Africa.

Three more parties join Turkey's election rush

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Turkey's progress towards democracy gained momentum yesterday with the foundation of three more parties, two on the right and one with social democratic tendencies.

The foundation of the Grand Turkey Party (BTP) headed by ex-General Ali Fethi Esener and Mr Husamettin Cindoruk, a lawyer, a close associate of Mr Suleyman Demirel, the former Conservative Prime Minister, as well as of the Fatherland Party (ANAP) by Mr Turgut Ozal, a former vice-premier, splits the conservative camp.

General elections are scheduled for November and there will be the Social Democrat block to contend with.

Last Monday, ex-General Turgut Sunalp had led the way with the foundation of the Nationalist Democracy Party, which the military rulers once hoped would emerge as a strong centrist force, and which reflects the philosophy of the army takeover in September 1980.

However, the BTP is expected to be the leading force in the conservative camp, with backing from the rank and file of Mr Demirel's former justice party, which was closed along with other political parties after the coup.

Mr Turgut Ozal is the architect of the current economic stabilization programme and his ANAP is seen as a force to be counted with, although his strict tight money and high interest rates policies were somewhat discredited by an acute financial crisis last summer which caused his resignation.

The bankruptcy of the so-called brokerage firms last year had left thousands of resentful small depositors who watched their savings sink, and had cost the state several hundred millions of dollars to meet the claims of depositors and bail out the banks.

All other parties however, are avoiding a commitment to the strict implementation of the programme.

The third party to be founded yesterday was the Populist Party (HP), headed by Mr Nezzet Calp, a former top bureaucrat reputed to be trusted by the military rulers.

However, despite the party's claims to represent the Social Democratic movement, the bulk of the Social Democrats, members of the Republican People's Party of former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, are now a foreign trip.

Has the West a mole in Radio Moscow?

By David Cross

Is there a Western mole working inside Moscow Radio's English-language service, or simply a bad translator? This is the intriguing question being posed following a mysterious broadcast by the radio's World Service earlier this week.

In a news broadcast monitored by the BBC in London on Wednesday, Mr Vladimir Danchev, a news reader, reported that Afghan tribesmen in the south-eastern province of Paktia had voiced their disagreement with the policies of the revolutionary Government backed by the Soviet Union.

The leaders of Pushtu and other local tribes, Mr Danchev said, called on "all those who have been for various reasons with anti-Government terrorist troops not to lay down their arms and fight against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan."

According to the Afghan news agency, Bakhtar, meetings of tribesmen have also taken place in Ghor and Baghlan provinces, Mr Danchev added.

An hour later Mr Danchev was back on the air again with the same news item.

La Scala picks Verdi for first Papal visit

From John Earle, Rome

A pope will for the first time set foot inside La Scala when he attends a concert in his honour this evening in Milan's Opera House. The Pope is on a three-day visit to the city.

Sitting not in the royal box but in a seat specially prepared in the stalls, he will listen to a programme of music by Verdi conducted by Riccardo Muti.

It is also only the first time in 565 years that a pope has visited Milan. The last papal visit was in 1418. His purpose is to close a national eucharistic congress.

Thousands of police and security agents have been drafted into Milan for the occasion. The Pope is making out many speeches and carrying out as many engagements as during a foreign trip.

Unions praise Hawke's mini-budget

From Tony Dudoobin, Melbourne

The Labour Government's mini-budget, introduced in the federal Parliament on Thursday night, was well received by the unions, employers and industry groups, while being dismissed by "an anti-climax" by the federal opposition.

At the same time the Government revealed that it was considering further money-saving measures. Mr John Dawkins, the Finance Minister, said he was confident that the Government could achieve considerably more savings before the August budget.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, had one hopeful word for taxpayers yesterday, when he said that across the board personal tax increases were unlikely in the budget.

The mini-budget, which is designed to cut the deficit by \$A427m (about £252) while making more than \$A500m available for job creating schemes, was described by Mr John Howard, the deputy Opposition leader and shadow Treasurer, as an anti-climax.

He also predicted that the Government would make large tax increases in the proper budget in August. Mr Andrew Peacock, the leader of the opposition, called the mini-budget an economic tragedy, but said that there were some measures he would support.

Mr Cliff Dolan, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), praised the general thrust of the measures. He said workers would accept most aspects of the package.

On the employers' side, reaction was generally favourable. Mr Bryan Noakes, director of the Confederation of Australian Industry, said the Government had tried to "set the scene for collective restraint" through out the community. We see the measures taken by the Government as genuine attempts to show restraint."

Mr Les Grove, the chief executive of the Housing Industry Association, said the Government's giving and taking was responsible. "It will provide a great boost to the housing industry and contribute to the turn-around in the industry," he predicted.

On the rural scene the reaction was less than enthusiastic. Mr Des Crowe, president of the Victorian Farmers and Graziers' Association, said the cutting of a range of subsidies would have a "deleterious effect on the whole rural community."

The main points of the mini-budget were the abolition of a number of tax concessions and allowances which hit the middle-income earner hardest.

The Government abolished the income tax rebate for contributions to private health funds for basic cover; introduced means test of pensioners over the age of 70 who had until now had the pension without any income test; introduced a tax on lump sum superannuation payouts; scrapped the income allowance off mortgage interest payments introduced by the Fraser Government.

On the credit side, the Government will provide an extra \$A127m for welfare housing and provide grants of up to \$A7,000 for first time home buyers at a cost of \$A80m; start community employment schemes involving outlays of \$A300m.

United States poised to break Soviet monopoly of arms sales to India

Washington (NYT) - India has quietly expressed interest in buying machine guns, mobile howitzers and C130 aircraft in a potential \$1,000m sale of arms from the United States, according to Administration officials.

Such a move, after months of secret talks, would mark a significant step away from India's reliance on the Soviet Union as its main arms supplier. It would definitely be a positive step in relations, a State Department official said.

India, seeking to diversify its arms purchases abroad in recent years, has bought Mirage fighters from France, Jaguar jets from Britain and submarines from West Germany. The politically delicate discussions with the US have involved a wide range of weapons including F20 Tigerhawk jet fighters.

The talks began after Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister visited the United States last year, officials said, when President Reagan directed his administration to press for an arms relationship with India. Officials of the National Security Council and the Defence Department have played key roles in talks, in Washington and in Delhi between Mr Harry Barnes, the US ambassador, and Indian military staff.

Officials close to the discussions said India's forces were especially interested in buying American weaponry and had observed and commented on

Israel's military mastery and its use of American weapons over the Syrians, with their Soviet weaponry, in the conflict in Lebanon last year.

Various possibilities have been explored, ranging from small arms to aircraft, said a ranking Defence Department official. "Nothing is closing right now, but it may. The Indians have been talking to our production managers."

Another official said India had shown genuine interest in buying 50-calibre guns, self-propelled 155mm artillery and C130 transport aircraft, which would largely be used for scientific teams in the Antarctic.

India makes about 85 per cent of its arms, including its own infantry field gun, artillery, tanks, trucks, some rockets and planes. It has largely depended on Moscow for the remaining 15 per cent, with the Russians offering highly concessional terms involving credits repayable in local currency. Moscow is said to supply T72 tanks, surface-to-air missiles, patrol boats, anti-tank weapons and electronic equipment.

The US has served as Pakistan's major arms supplier but has never provided a major flow of weapons to India. It once sold weaponry there but cut off those sales during India's war with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971.

Senator Orrin G. Hatch, deputy foreign policy chairman of the Senate steering committee, said in the senate on Thursday that a historic shift was under way in US-Indian relations brought about by the strategic vision of President Reagan and his advisers.

The steering committee, a conservative group of 25 senators, is known to meet regularly. Mr William P. Clark, the National Security Council Director.

Mr Hatch (Republican, Utah) said that India's relations with China and Pakistan has warmed considerably and that the Reagan Administration is on the verge of establishing a balanced American relationship with India and Pakistan for the first time in many years.

He said that Indian requests to purchase equipment will be acted upon favourably by Congress. There was bipartisan support for such sales and many conservative senators supported the effort to de-couple Mrs Gandhi from her close relations with the Soviet Union.

It is known that Mr Hatch recently sent an aide, Mr Michael Pillsbury, to Delhi twice to assure the Indian Government that there would be considerable Congressional support for the arms sales despite Mrs Gandhi's friendly ties with the Soviet Union.

● DELHI: The second shipment of enriched uranium from France for the Tarapur atomic power plant arrived yesterday in Hyderabad, AP reports.



When cultures collide: The scene on a highway outside Interconcourse, Pennsylvania, after a horse-drawn buggy was in a crash with a car. The buggy's two occupants, both Amish traditionalists, were taken to hospital. The horse was destroyed.

Nicaragua pushes back rebel invaders

Sao José (Reuters) - Nicaraguan rebels clashed with Nicaraguan Government forces along the border with Costa Rica yesterday and heavy fighting was reported by a Costa Rican Public Security Ministry Spokesman.

Casualty figures were not immediately available. The fighting came only days before a team of observers from four Latin American nations is due in Costa Rica to evaluate the border situation.

The spokesman said the rebels who entered southern Nicaragua on Thursday were pushed back into Costa Rican territory yesterday. The Costa Rican Civil Guard detained two Nicaraguan soldiers in Mexico de Upala, border area 270 miles north of San José, he added.

Costa Rica's Security Council meanwhile called an emergency meeting to discuss the fighting along the border where Nicaragua says rebels have established camps to launch attacks.

The border observers are due to arrive on Monday. They are being sent by Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia - the Contadora Group named after the Panamanian island where they held talks in January on the Central America situation.

The rebels, led by Señor Eden Pastora, a former Sandinist Deputy Defence Minister, said in a communique published in newspapers here that more than 300 people had been killed or wounded in fighting in the first two weeks of May.

Sudan army mutiny cost 78 lives

Khartoum (AFP) - Last Sunday's abortive army mutiny in Southern Sudan resulted in the death of 78 people, according to a high-ranking military officer quoted by the official news agency yesterday.

One major and seven colonels and privates were killed among loyal troops, while 70 mutineers from a battalion of the First Division of the Southern Region died.

The agency said many mutineers surrendered, and that "dozens of them" were wounded or arrested, but gave no exact numbers.

On Wednesday the Army General Command reported that the uprising had been put down at Bor and Biber in Jonglei province.

The high-ranking source quoted by the agency said that preliminary investigations showed that the mutineers had received ammunition, explosives and money from "foreign circles plotting against the security and unity of Sudan".

Asparagus helps keep MEPs in Strasbourg

From Ian Murray, Hoerdt, near Strasbourg

May is the month of the asparagus in the near Rhineland round Strasbourg, and the luxury vegetable has been deployed extensively in the battle for the seat of the European Parliament.

Thousands of the thick white stalks have been cut from the soaking ground in the countryside and marshalled in the kitchens of A La Charrne for the annual Euro-MPs dinner.

The dinner is a four-year-old tradition established by the near-legendary former mayor of Strasbourg, M Pierre Pflimlin, as part of his campaign to keep all European Parliament sessions in his city.

The parliamentarians are rounded up to coaches and driven out to this typical tourist Alsatian village, with its black and white houses with carved shutters and steep-tiled roofs.

M Marcel Rudloff, the chosen successor of M Pflimlin, welcomes all his guests to the blue-and-white-striped tent in the yard of the restaurant. While the band plays, the meal is served.

First come china trugs shaped to look like bundles of asparagus, with the steaming stalks piled up inside. As they are emptied and cleared away, the second course arrives - more china trugs with more asparagus. The chilled Pinot flows, the noise and bonhomie rise and the pink alsatian ham arrives, served with a side vegetable-asparagus.

The ham is finished, but for the hungry there are always more trugs of asparagus to pick at until the cheese-and-strawberry gâteau arrives.

M Rudloff does not disguise that this is all a bribe when he makes the speech of welcome to "this metropolis of the asparagus". This is the only place, he claims, where such splendid asparagus can be grown in such quantities.

(It is certainly different, whiter, coarser, less subtly flavoured than its English cousin. But in the cause of European solidarity, this is not an opinion which should be voiced too loudly in Hoerdt.)

M Rudloff enthuses on. The asparagus epitomized the springtime and is thus right for Europe. In the argument over where "this or that European institution" should be, it had to be remembered that only in Strasbourg could parliamentarians really enjoy this fitting European symbol of youth and hope.

The MEPs, who are known to be flirting seriously with the idea of transferring at least some of their sessions to Brussels, clap happily and lick their fingers.

For all its inconveniences in being divorced from the other institutions of Europe, Strasbourg may not be such a bad place to meet after all - especially in May.

Former Nazi saved by Madrid judges

From our Correspondent, Madrid

A former member of the Nazi Waffen SS was back running his languages school in Oviedo, Asturias, yesterday after the judges of a Madrid court reversed their decision of nine days ago to allow his extradition to The Netherlands for trial for war crimes.

Auke-Bert Pattist, Dutch-born but a naturalized Spaniard for the past 14 years, was freed immediately.

Holland alleged that he persecuted Jews during the Nazi occupation.

Uganda forces claim success against bandits

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi

The Uganda Army has conducted a successful operation against a gang calling itself the urban guerrilla task force, killing its leader.

About 20,000 people who have been living as refugees in the Luwero area, 50 miles north of Kampala, for the last two years are being resettled now that their home areas have been cleared of guerrillas. The Government is giving them clothing and farm implements to enable them to re-establish their farms.

Canada's anti-spy unit given Orwellian powers

From John Best, Ottawa

A stormy passage through Parliament awaits a Bill setting up a new civilian security and counter-intelligence service in Canada separate from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The long-awaited Bill, which for the first time would give the country an agency with a separate and precise mandate to fight espionage, sabotage, terrorism, political violence and subversion has provoked serious controversy.

It will allow agents to open mail, break into homes and offices, tap telephones and plant electronic listening devices.

Precisely such practices by the RCMP security arm gave rise to a royal commission which reported two years ago. It recommended establishment of the new security service, most of whose members would come, at the outset, from the ranks of the police security branch.

The left-wing New Democratic Party has already vowed to fight the Bill, describing it as "Orwellian", while the main Conservative opposition has expressed reservations. However, the Liberal majority can be expected to prevail in the end.

Minor law-breaking such as registering at a hotel under a false name, is covered by a section which permits security agents to "take such reasonable actions as are reasonably necessary to perform their duties."

However, an elaborate system of checks has been written into the legislation. To begin with, the intrusions would have to be authorized by a judge of the Federal Court.

A security intelligence review committee, consisting of three privy councillors, will review all activities of the service. It will also hear complaints about alleged abuses.

An inspector-general will also be appointed to review the agency's operational activities.

The new agency will be forbidden to investigate any group or individual solely on the basis of participation in "lawful advocacy, protest or dissent."

Mr Robert Kaplan, Solicitor-General, told reporters that the new service will operate under "one of the most effective control systems in the Western world."

The Royal Horticultural Society announces

THE FIRST WEDGWOOD CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW PLATE

Crafted in fine bone china and richly bordered with 22 carat gold.

'Chelsea Pride' by Rosanne Sanders

Issued in limited edition

This beautiful plate, designed by an award-winning artist and created by the world-famous porcelain house of Wedgwood, may well be the most significant collector's plate issued this year.

The design is an original by Rosanne Sanders, winner of both gold and silver gilt medals for floral art from the Royal Horticultural Society. She has portrayed with meticulous artistry some of the loveliest flowers shown at Chelsea. A single burnt-orange begonia. Delicate Iceland poppies and miniature roses. Alpine primroses ranging from yellow to orange to copper. Graceful spikes of delphinium in lavender and violet. An enchanting, true-to-nature bouquet, surmounted by a cameo study of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea - home of the Flower Show for the past 61 years.

This new 1983 plate will be crafted in fine bone china by Josiah Wedgwood and Sons - the first ever 'Chelsea' issue of that renowned porcelain house and a significant collecting first. Through their traditional skills in the firing of infinitely varied colour tones, the true splendour of the artist's original work will be carefully preserved in fine bone china. And the rich appearance of the plate will be further enhanced and defined by double borders of 22 carat gold.

Each plate will be accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity, signed by the Secretary of The Royal Horticultural Society, attesting to its unique qualities and distinctive status as an official issue of The Society.

The issue price of 'Chelsea Pride' is £45, and is guaranteed excepting only any change in the rate of VAT. The plate will be available only during 1983, and only by application at the Chelsea Flower Show or direct to Franklin Mint Limited, officially appointed by The Royal Horticultural Society to fulfil applications. There is a further limit of one plate per collector.

To acquire The First Wedgwood Chelsea Flower Show Plate, please post the order form by 31st May, 1983.

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Crumbs of comfort for Mitterrand on trade but health row grows

From Diana Geddes, Paris

No sooner had President Mitterrand's beleaguered Government begun to draw some crumbs of comfort from the best trade results for more than 18 months, than it was faced with a new potential conflict.

This is its proposal to charge patients 20 per cent of the cost of certain operations as part of its efforts to balance the social security and health insurance fund.

The fund, with a budget this year of 550 billion francs (£47,000m) has accumulated a deficit over the past two years of around 13 billion francs, and is expected to make a further deficit this year of 5 billion francs unless costs are cut or contributions raised.

As part of its austerity package, the Government announced in March a new levy of 1 per cent on taxable income. These proceeds are intended to go to the fund. But that will only raise an estimated 11 billion francs. Further measures are therefore needed.

The Communist Party insisted yesterday that it would never accept a fall in the level of reimbursement, at present 100 per cent, for surgical operations. The three main trade union federations also described the proposal as totally unacceptable, particularly coming on top of the recent introduction of a daily 20 franc charge for

hospital patients, and the cut in the level of reimbursement for certain medicines from 70 per cent to 40 per cent.

The announcement that the trade deficit in April had fallen to 11.5 billion francs, compared with an average monthly deficit for the first quarter of more than 8 billion francs, prompted unexpected support for the Government's austerity measures from M Yvon Gattaz, president of the CNPF, the main employers' federation.

Such measures were inevitable, he said, because the trade deficit had become a national scourge. "Jacques Delors (the Finance Minister) is right to fight, as he has, against inflation; we are ready to help him," he continued. The French people, and the unions in particular, must now be prepared to accept a fall in the purchasing power of their salaries.

His comments will do little to ease the growing tension and discontent among the unions and the Communist Party, however. M Pierre Juquin, member of the Communist Party politburo, said earlier this week that "the left will see off the branch on which it is sitting if it does not maintain the purchasing power of workers' salaries".

Mr Juquin reiterated the Communist Party's increasingly outspoken criticisms of the

austerity measures, saying that "the social cost was rather high for very hypothetical results". M Georges Marchais, the party's general secretary, has insisted, however, that the criticisms in no way mark a change in the party's attitude toward its participation in the government.

It is far too early to attribute April's good trade figures to the Government's austerity measures which were only announced at the end of March and which are unlikely to start bearing fruit until June. The big drop in the trade deficit was rather the result of an end to the speculative buying by companies in anticipation of the March devaluation of the franc, and of a fall in oil imports.

The May trade deficit figures are likely to be higher again, particularly in view of the increase in the value of the dollar which on Thursday reached a new record high of 7.44 francs, up 13 per cent compared with the January level of 6.60 francs; 40 per cent of French imports have to be paid for in dollars.

Defence programme: The French National Assembly yesterday passed on first reading a five-year defence programme strongly opposed by some army officers because it will build up the country's nuclear strike force but cut troop levels by 22,000.



Student fling: Hooded medical students stoning the police in Montpellier before agreeing to end their protest

French medical students calling off strike

Paris (AFP) - French medical students yesterday decided to end their three-month strike against government reforms of medical studies. Delegates with mandates from 44 university hospitals met in Rouen and voted by 11,132 to 6,613 to call it off.

About half the students wanting to end the strike voted for a halt yesterday while others wanted to stop it next Wednesday. But the delegates rejected a draft agreement with the government drawn up by a group of five mediators. The strike, which started in Paris seven weeks after the National Assembly had voted

through a reform of medical studies, subsequently spread to the provinces, involving most of the nation's 35,000 medical students.

The students were angered by the introduction of a new selective examination at the end of the sixth year of studies to determine their right to further training to become specialists.

Roads blocked: In the south, wine producers blocked roads and some railway lines throughout the Languedoc-Roussillon area with barricades of burning tyres, branches and empty crates, in protest against EEC wine regulations. Diane Geddes writes.

In Paris, students of the Assas University stopped the Metro system for several minutes in the middle of the day by setting off alarms and signals. They then went on to occupy University buildings in protest against the refusal of university authorities to postpone from May until September.

Madrid: Spanish farmers and lorry owners smashed the windows of the French embassy here yesterday using stones and tomatoes, eggs and green peppers they had taken from a lorry which had previously been overturned. As the police moved to prevent the demonstrators from entering the embassy, Madrid housewives quickly helped themselves to the vegetables.

Spain's Socialist government has protested to Paris after the destruction and burning during the past few days by French farmers of Spanish agricultural products in at least 26 Spanish border towns.

Japan risks Iraq bombs and rebuilds in Iran

Tokyo (NYT) - After months of negotiation, a Japanese consortium led by the Mitsui Company has reached an agreement to resume construction on a \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) petrochemical complex in southern Iran. Work on the project has been stalled since September 1980, shortly after the war between Iran and Iraq began.

Since then, the Japanese side has maintained that unless Iran assumed all additional costs for the joint venture, it would not resume the project. Last Monday, a delegation from Iran's national petrochemical company agreed in Tokyo to that condition, Mitsui said this week.

All additional financial requirements will be taken on by Iran, a Mitsui spokesman said.

"We said we would start work immediately," the Japanese side agreed to resume the project, which is in Bandar Khomeini, despite the continued fighting between Iran and Iraq. Previously, Mitsui had said it would not send its employees to Iran until the war was over.

Iraq has said it would bomb the project again if construction were restarted. Iraq has attacked the complex, which was 85 per cent completed, six times. The agreement to resume the petrochemical project was the second accord reached this week between Iran and Japan. Also on Monday, Iraq agreed to sell oil to Japan at 20 to 30 cents a barrel less than the \$28 price that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has established for Iranian oil.

Anger rises at killings in Argentina

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

The death of two men in a confused incident involving the Buenos Aires police has fuelled a wave of accusations and protests.

Police said both men were killed when they opened fire on a routine police patrol on the Pan-American Highway. Señor Osvaldo Cambiaso, according to officials, was a former political prisoner and left-wing Peronist, while Señor Eduardo Pereira Rossi was member of the banned Montoneros guerrilla group who had returned to the country secretly.

Human rights groups, political parties, and relatives of the men challenge this account.

Greek protest over Nato exercises

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece lodged a strong protest with Washington because mixed formations of American and Turkish aircraft taking part in Nato exercise "Distant Drum" repeatedly trespassed in Aegean air space on Thursday.

Mr Andreas Pappadourou, the Prime Minister, declared that the incident raised "very grave political issues". He added: "We hope the United States will size up its responsibilities". Some Western diplomats saw this as an explicit threat to break off the current US-Greek negotiations on the fate of the American bases.

Greece, with responsibility for air traffic control in the Athens FIR by US

and Turkish aircraft implied American support for Turkey's Aegean claims.

American sources said the US never submitted flight plans of military aircraft using the Athens FIR unless they assessed national air space. The US could not accept a protest since there had been no violation of the established practice.

Some Western diplomats in Athens suggested that the Greek Government's attempt to play up the incident and create what they saw as yet another artificial crisis in its relations with the United States, presaged developments in the current bases negotiations.

Andropov takes up invitation to visit Angola

Moscow (Reuter) - Mr Yuri Andropov, Soviet Party leader, has accepted an invitation to visit Angola, the two countries announced yesterday at the close of a five-day trip to the Soviet Union by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

A joint communiqué issued by Tass said no date had been set for the visit. Some Western diplomats here believe he may be considering a tour of allied Africa and Asian countries.

President Dos Santos later flew home from Kiev, Tass reported from the Ukrainian capital.

Queen's Bench Division

Laker anti-trust action may proceed

British Airways Board v Laker Airways Ltd, British Caledonian Airways Ltd v Same. Before Mr Justice Parker. [Judgment delivered May 20]

Mr Justice Parker dismissed applications brought by British Caledonian Airways Ltd and the British Airways Board pursuant to Queen's Bench Division claims for an injunction to restrain Laker Airways Ltd, and injunctions to restrain Laker from continuing, an anti-trust action against them in the United States.

The US claim alleged that the two applicants, together with four other airlines, Pan American, TWA, Lufthansa and Swissair, and two British manufacturers, the McDonnell Douglas group, had all conspired to bring about the financial collapse of Laker.

If successful, Laker would be entitled to triple damages, totalling more than \$1,000m.

The applicants contended that it would be both unjust and contrary to public policy to allow the US anti-trust action to proceed. Mr Richard Scott, QC and Mr Jonathan Sumption for the British Airways Board; Mr Colin Ross-Munro, QC and Mr David Donaldson for British Caledonian Airways; Mr David Johnson, QC; Mr Michael Crystal and Mr Richard Hacker for Laker Airways; Mr Peter Scott, QC and Mr Nicolas Bratza for the Attorney General.

MR JUSTICE PARKER said that it had always been regarded as of great importance that there should not be conflict between the courts of one country and another. But there were occasions when it might be necessary to restrain the pursuit of proceedings in another country, and allowance was made for that.

Ex parte injunctions had been granted to the applicants, and they remained in force pending the determination of the present application. The applications were probably unique in that the relief was not sought on the usual basis that the opposing party could equally well bring a claim could only be pursued in a district court in the US. Accordingly, if prevented from pursuing it there, Laker could not pursue it in the UK or anywhere else.

The background was as follows. From 1977 the applicants, Laker and two US airlines in the anti-trust action all derived their rights to operate scheduled transatlantic flight services from the fact that they were designated respectively by the US under what was called the Bermuda 2 agreement. His Lordship read articles 2(2), 3(1), 3(6), 11, and 12 of that agreement.

It was clear that both governments had been closely involved in the fixing of tariffs. His Lordship referred to sections 1, 2 and 4 of the US Sherman Act which formed the basis of the Laker claim.

It was alleged that by late summer 1981, when Laker was known to be in grave financial trouble, the applicants and the other defendants in the US action had, pursuant to a combination between them done

two things to drive Laker out of business. First, they had dropped fares although it was widely understood that Laker had exerted pressure on the McDonnell Douglas Corporation to secure a financial rescue operation reaching fruition.

His Lordship referred to sections 418 (as amended) and 414 of the US Federal Aviation Act 1958, under which US air carriers were obliged to file with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) a record of every agreement with another air carrier affecting air transport.

Important features of the anti-trust action were that Laker, though in liquidation, could institute and pursue that action without affording the defendants any security for costs should it fail, because in that case no costs could be recovered.

Also, there was no right of contribution as between defendants, so that if Laker was successful, it could sue the other defendants as defendant alone, who would not be able to recover against any other defendant.

Coming to the law, the principle authorities on the matter were *The Atlantic Star* (1974) AC 436, *McShannon v Rockware Glass* (1978) AC 715, *Castanho Brown & Root (UK) Ltd* (1981) AC 557 and *Swain v Hillman* (1982) AC 1176 (The Times, May 17, 1982).

In *McShannon*, Lord Salmon had expressed the issue on a broad basis as follows: "The question as to whether it should be stayed depends upon whether the defendants can establish that to refuse a stay would produce injustice..."

It appeared to his Lordship that following *Adams v Adams* (1971) 218, *United States v. Alford*, and *Re Washington Uranium Contract* (1978) AC 547, it might be legitimate for the court to receive statements as to government policy delivered through the Attorney General. The extent to which such statements would be taken into account would be limited, since it was of the essence of the rule of law that the rights and obligations of individuals depend on law and not executive policy.

Mr Peter Scott, on behalf of the Attorney General, had said that her Majesty's Government regarded the government of the US as being in breach of its obligations under Bermuda 2 in allowing anti-trust proceedings to be pursued indirectly in respect of damage alleged to have flowed from tariffs approved under Bermuda 2, thus undermining that agreement.

That dispute between the governments was being resolved according to the dispute procedure. His Lordship referred to the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980, which gave the secretary of state wide powers. Sections 5 and 6 of the Act dealt with the enforcement of foreign judgments.

Under section 5, no foreign judgment was enforceable in this country if it was a judgment for multiple damages. That was aimed directly at judgments in anti-trust actions, and was not restricted to the multiple part of them.

By section 6, a qualifying defendant in the UK could recover that part of a judgment which

represented the excess over compensation. But sections 5 and 6 could not be regarded as a sound foundation for any submission that an anti-trust action should be restrained from pursuing its claim.

In his Lordship's judgment, the applications by British Caledonian Airways and the British Airways Board could be shortly disposed of.

(1) There was nothing in Bermuda 2 to justify saying it would be unjust to allow the action to proceed. It was conceded that notwithstanding Bermuda 2, a common law action for conspiracy could properly be brought. Hence it could not be alleged that Bermuda 2 provided a complete code provided its provisions were complied with.

Furthermore, even if it could, it was inherent in the allegations that the provisions of Bermuda 2 had not been complied with. If there was an agreement then it should under article 12 have been submitted to the CAB approval. It had not.

(2) Since, if there was a fares agreement, anti-trust exemption could have been sought and since both applicants (a) carried on business in the US at the material time (b) while no doing were alleged to have combined with American airlines in breach of anti-trust, (c) had necessarily, in order to put the alleged combination into effect, to put fares before CAB for approval, and (d) also concealed from CAB the existence of the alleged agreement, there was nothing unjust in allowing Laker to proceed.

(3) The submission that if the anti-trust laws continued to operate

Law Report May 21 1983

Legal aid to appeal covers renewed plea

Regina v Gibson (Ivano) Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Drake and Mr Justice Beidam. [Judgment delivered May 16]

An application for leave to appeal included the renewal of an application to the full court and an original legal aid certificate covered work done by counsel or solicitor in the preparation of such application, the Court of Appeal, Criminal Proceedings, held.

Regulation 12 of the Legal Aid in Criminal Proceedings (General) Regulations (SI 1968 No 121) amended by (SI 1970 No 1980), (SI 1976 No 790) and (SI 1980 No 661, 705 and 1651) enabled the court to order that the legal aid order made should commence at any time prior to, or on, or after the day upon which it was applied for.

In considering an amendment of a legal aid order made by a single judge, so as to include representation by counsel and solicitor, the court would have regard to the merits of the application.

Mr Michael Hucker, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the applicant, Mr Keith Maitland Davis for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the full court in granting leave to appeal after refusal by the single judge had stated: "The

solicitors... have indicated that they would wish to have included in the legal aid some form of retrospective legal aid to cover the costs of the application for leave after refusal by the single judge..."

The solicitors had assumed that they were no longer covered by the legal aid certificate granted at the crown court in accordance with sections 28(7) and 30(7) of the Legal Aid Act 1974. If the assumption was wrong and the certificate covered work done in giving the application to the full court the solicitors could invite the taxing authority to consider allowance of costs and disbursements under that certificate and no order in that regard should be made by the court if it possessed the power.

The renewal was but a further step in the making of an application which was not finally dealt with until it was granted by the single judge or, (b) refused by the single judge and not renewed or, (c) renewed to the full court and either granted or refused.

Until one of those events had occurred the application was in being and attracted the provisions of section 30(7). Thus assistance given by counsel or solicitor in the preparation of the application for leave to appeal was covered by the original legal aid certificate. It would be for the taxing authority,

of a certain strength before the question of granting Mareva relief could arise at all (the threshold). (2) Even where a plaintiff's case reached the threshold, his strength had to be weighed in the balance with other factors relevant to the exercise of the discretion.

Regarding the threshold, his Lordship considered that the right course to adopt was the test of a good arguable case, in the sense of a case which was more than barely capable of serious argument, and yet not necessarily one which the judge believed to have a better than 50 per cent chance of success.

It was particularly important that the court should not be drawn into a premature trial of the action rather than a preliminary appraisal of the plaintiff's case, especially where, as in the present case, the parties had to be weighed in the balance by arbitrators, whose decision the court should not preempt.

The second issue was: what type of prejudice by way of dissipation of assets must the plaintiff demonstrate, and with what degree of conviction, before the defendant's assets could properly be detained to await a possible judgment?

Certain themes could be seen to run through the cases. It was not enough for the plaintiff to assert a claim, which the assets would be dissipated. He had to demonstrate that by solid evidence. What form the evidence took would depend on the particular circumstances of the case, but it had to be there.

More proof that the company was incorporated abroad, accompanied by the allegation that there were no reachable assets in the UK apart from those which it was sought to enjoin, would not be enough. In selecting such evidence, plaintiffs should bear in mind that the same obligations of candour applied to Mareva proceedings as to any other form of *ex parte* application.

His Lordship then applied the above principles to the present case and concluded that the Mareva injunction granted by his Lordship on March 28, should be discharged. Solicitors: Ince & Co, Holman Fenwick & Willan.

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'Times' is accused of insult to Kenya

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A strong attack on this week's leading article in *The Times* on the Kenya political situation appeared in the columns of the *Daily Nation* yesterday.

In a leading article headed "Tribe - and *The Times* of London", the Nairobi paper describes the tone of the article in *The Times* as insulting to Kenyans.

It objects particularly to suggestions that efforts have been made to involve Britain in Kenya's recent political crisis, following the statement by President Moi that an unnamed foreign power was grooming an unnamed Kenyan for the post of President.

"We are not even aware that there has been any official statements on the role of Britain, if any, in the current controversies," the leading article says.

No copies of Wednesday's issue of *The Times*, which carried the article, have appeared on sale in Nairobi. It is understood the paper was intercepted at Nairobi airport by the Kenyan authorities.

The paper said it was not acceptable that a commentator in London should decide what language the political system in Kenya uses. "Political language and style are peculiar to the country concerned."

"If anything the handling of the current political hassle in Kenya should give our true allies a reason for congratulating the Government and people of Kenya."

"We are of course aware that there have been Kenyans trying to use the overseas media to discredit not only the Government but the country as a whole." The paper goes on: "If *The Times* editorial insults the intelligence of Kenyans, *The Daily Telegraph* editorial of Thursday is disgraceful. It presumes to put words in President Moi's mouth."

"That editorial says in part: 'It is clearly ludicrous to suppose' that the British Government has been attempting to destabilize Mr Moi. Until his recent outburst he had been as sound a friend as Britain could wish for."

"This is always the bribebo which is used by all foreigners when they do not understand the real issues in African politics. Whereas we accept that these comments are the right of comment on affairs, it is wrong for them to give such uninformed opinions."

"Who is feeding them such tripe?"

Court of Appeal

Principles of Mareva applications

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His Lordship then applied the above principles to the present case and concluded that the Mareva injunction granted by his Lordship on March 28, should be discharged. Solicitors: Ince & Co, Holman Fenwick & Willan.

of a certain strength before the question of granting Mareva relief could arise at all (the threshold). (2) Even where a plaintiff's case reached the threshold, his strength had to be weighed in the balance with other factors relevant to the exercise of the discretion.

Regarding the threshold, his Lordship considered that the right course to adopt was the test of a good arguable case, in the sense of a case which was more than barely capable of serious argument, and yet not necessarily one which the judge believed to have a better than 50 per cent chance of success.

It was particularly important that the court should not be drawn into a premature trial of the action rather than a preliminary appraisal of the plaintiff's case, especially where, as in the present case, the parties had to be weighed in the balance by arbitrators, whose decision the court should not preempt.

The second issue was: what type of prejudice by way of dissipation of assets must the plaintiff demonstrate, and with what degree of conviction, before the defendant's assets could properly be detained to await a possible judgment?

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THE ARTS

Theatre An uneasy evening

Beethoven's Tenth Vaudeville

The idea behind Peter Ustinov's new play is that there is little to pick between the Viennese aristocracy who patronized Beethoven as a tradesman in his lifetime, and the parasitic musical establishment that has battered on the uncouth genius after his death.

there, with his hearing perfectly restored (together with a perfect command of the English language) by an obliging doctor. At which point interest revives in seeing where Mr Ustinov will kick the onsize ball he has at his feet.

Will Beethoven demolish the obnoxious Stephen, or proclaim his son a second Schubert (his fault, in the parental critic's eyes, is that he writes tunes), or reveal the wife a second Elisabeth Schumann? Ustinov has clearly pondered all these options, but arrived at no decisive answer.

There is a sense of inconclusiveness about everything that happens, and a strong impression of conversational padding. This intensifies in the second act when Beethoven ventures 'out of doors and, surprise surprise, is much taken aback by cars, television sets and Hamburger joints. Music, meanwhile takes a back seat to Ustinov's old theme, the comedy of the generations; and to the interest the church takes in the visitor from the other side.

Robert Chetwyn's production has not found a satisfactory way of negotiating the shifts between satire, imaginary conversation, fantasy, and romantic biography. Ustinov himself holds the stage with every barked command, senile hand-flutter, and unexpected turn of speed; but he does not leave you feeling you know the man any better.

Irving Wardle

Lear Pit

What is unbearable about seeing Edward Bond's greatest (and biggest) play again, 12 years after its Royal Court premiere, is not the horrors and bleakness of war, the bayonetting and mutilations, the casual slaughters and deaths, but the cunning and forced cause, and the other brutality, that had members Thursday night's audience carried out in seizures of shock. Not even the blinding of Lear by a time-serving prison doctor coolly demonstrating his "scientific" removing device as if on television. It is the knowledge that it is even more topical now and will become more so as man's inhumanity gains subtle sophistication with the twenty-first century's approach.

Barry Kyle's superb production makes one bitterly regret the Pit's limited capacity for those ignorant of this tremendous play. Actors of known excellence excel themselves (often a tribute to the directors); unrecognizable

Radio Seeing winners in a different light

The first Radio Times Drama Awards for ten years, presented last Monday by the Duchess of Gloucester, produced joint winners in the radio section to share the handsome first prize of £5,000. Who is Sylvia? was Stephen Dinstone's first play for radio or indeed any medium. Christopher Russell on the other hand is an experienced practitioner with 13 radio plays broadcast in the six years to 1981, two more awaiting production, and this latest *Swimmer*, presumably the sixteenth.

What do these occasions do for anyone? Are the winners guaranteed a sunlit future? Do they uncover unsuspected veins of talent? The outright winner on the last occasion, having served up a promising original and even rather brilliant piece, then sank virtually without trace - an outcome for which on this occasion, there exists only one half of an opportunity. But such a sad conclusion can be seen in quite different terms if you draw attention to the folly, which awards of all sort tend to foster, of the mystique of the outright winners.

Much more to the point was the fact that over the years that followed, some 20 or 30 entrants to that competition emerged as established or even in a few cases distinguished radio playwrights. No doubt the same will happen in the years from now: maybe to one of last Monday's runner-up, David Britton, whose earlier play for BBC Radio Leeds, *The History Lesson*, made such a good impression both at the Sony and the Local Radio Awards.

You might ask whether, with its proclaimed throughput of 10,000 unsolicited scripts per annum, the Radio Drama Department really needs to generate additional submissions. Consistent listening to the output suggests to me at least that it does: for while there is a good deal of talent among radio dramatists, there is little exceptional talent, and it is just possible that the lure of a competition with a first prize large enough to keep a person from the dole queue for some considerable time might reveal the odd high-flier, besides adding to the useful and not exactly overcrowded ranks of the merely talented.

in white hair and beard, Bob Feck masterfully grasps the title whose opening scene folly, unlike that of Shakespeare's Lear, is rigidity, militarism, obsessive construction of Hadrian's Wall that, with sanity that follows madness and insight that follows blinding, he finally dies demolishing.

Sara Kestelman (licking lines like "I had his tongue cut out" crisply into the third row) and Jenny Agutter, touring battlefields in Dior Ascot outfits, encompass all the viciousness, wolfish humour and pathos Bond pours into the Regan and Generali equivalents.

Mark Rylance gives the doomed Gravedigger's Son, this Lear's Fool, a searing charm in life and, as a ghost, comforts the blind old man with a sweetness that never obscures Bond's characteristic anger against the wasted lives of the dead and the living.

Whether or not you can accept Bond's vision of the way forward and his often-depicted ideal of pastoral simplicity matters little; the anger and the challenges remain.

Anthony Masters

Peter Dickinson left *Punch* to write crime fiction and children's books. He won a Golden Dagger almost immediately and has just published *Hindsight*, his twelfth thriller. Interview by Caroline Moorehead

Making crime pay

Peter Dickinson was 40, assistant editor at *Punch*, a poet by desire, a reviewer of crime fiction and parodist by trade, when he sat down one evening at his kitchen table after dinner and wrote the first chapter of a detective story. When, two thirds of the way through, he got stuck, he turned his hand to a children's book, born out of an unfinished nightmare of the previous night that he wanted to complete and put right. The first, *Skin Deep*, was awarded the Crime Writers' Association golden dagger the second, *The Weathermonger*, wide acclaim. That was in 1969. Dickinson is now on his thirtieth book. "It was just that I suddenly realized that I was going to be a have-been before I ever got started", he explains, a little apologetically, but with understandable and undisguised satisfaction.

The years since then have been spent alternating crime with children's fiction, an obvious juxtaposition once you enter Dickinson's particularly odd and rich world of the imagination, in which lovable apes are sole witnesses to murders and cockney female plant-hunters turn out to be the mothers of supreme high lamas. You sense that he is a writer who has, above all, had a lot of fun: "It is impossible for me to deny that there are books that seem to insist on getting written", he says.



earlier life was a perfect preparation for these last years of enormous literary fecundity. He was born in Rhodesia, one of three sons of a colonial civil servant. When he was seven the family returned to England, where his father soon died. The three boys were brought up not always in, but on the edges of the family home, Painwick, in the Cotswolds (now the setting for the television biography). Dickinson won a scholarship to Eton, "bottom scholar of the worst year". He was both happy and unhappy, an "intellectual and a lout", good at Eton's particular assortment of recitative games and, in time, a member of Pop. "I only did one thing worthwhile. When my turn came to beat a boy, I refused. It was too squeamish." After National Service as a district signals officer based in

and enamelled and embroidered canvases, done by his wife Mary Rose, hanging on the sitting-room walls.

Did he find it hard to switch so fast from journalism to fiction? "Hard? Good heavens, no." He has a strong sense of appraisal of his own skills. "When I'm on form, I think my books are a pleasure to read. If critics wanted to do a hatches job on me they'd say that they lacked a true emotional core. That I'm frightened of emotion."

"I'm really a poet. I'm almost cursed with too great a facility with verse. On form" (an expression he is fond of) "I can talk in heroic couplets. I'm about twenty years behind. I've just discovered that Auden is relatively easy to understand." Once it was obvious that his writing was going to work - *Pride of Heroes*, his second detective story, also won the Crime Writers' Association golden dagger, a unique double first - Dickinson, having applied for the editorship of *Punch* and failed to get it, "mercifully" left to work on his own. One weekend he wrote 7,000 words towards a new novel. Now he rations himself, 9.30 until 12.30 every morning.

His fortieth year seems to have been particularly auspicious. It was then that he and his family also took over his mother-in-law's place in Hampshire, a 12-bedroom country house with two acres of land.

Now he's an avid gardener. It fills his summers, sets the theme for brief holidays - to visit other gardens - and occupies the many hours that he cannot be writing. But the winters remain a "hideous" problem. "I grow bored with my own company. I eke out patience, keeping the more intellectually demanding for special occasions. We don't entertain much, or go to the theatre or the cinema. I find I overreact violently to other people's emotions. Nor do I read fiction. If it's good, it makes me jealous. If it's bad, crosses me."

The words suggest torpor, and a reluctance to engage in life. But there is nothing even faintly inactive about Dickinson, with his bicycle propped up in the hall, his talk of re-roofing the Hampshire house with the help of his two sons, both at Oxford, his restless and jovial manner behind which, presumably, new and ever more fantastic worlds are forming as networks for his new stories.

Cannes postscript

Cannes juries can always be relied upon to surprise - largely because they are invariably so curiously assorted and generally include a weighting of celebrities with no particular predisposition about the cinema.

The president this year, for instance, was the novelist William Styron, whose only recorded connexion with film is as the author of *Sophie's Choice*. For the rest, the jury included the Soviet director Sergei Bondarchuk, the Egyptian director Youssef Chahine and Britain's Karel Reisz; the ebullient Italian actress Mariangela Melato and the veteran French cinematographer Henri Alekan.

Few people would have predicted that this group would settle on Sholoi Imamura's *The Ballad of Nanayama* for the Golden Palm. The film is based on a popular Japanese novel

which was filmed in the 1960s by Kelsuke Kinoshita. Kinoshita filmed it in classic historical style. Imamura, in contrast, offers an interpretation at once realistic and pantheistic of the life of a primitive rural community in the 19th century.

Intermittent sequences of animal nature provide a silent commentary upon the village rituals, centred upon eating, drinking, copulation, birth and death. Life has a relentless continuity. The old are taken up the mountain to die when they reach the age of 70, to make space for the young. The film has its own power, but better minds than mine were defeated by the effort or sort out relationships among the characters.

Of prizes, as of taste, there is no disputing. Whether you actually like their films or not, the citations for "creativity"

shared by Robert Bresson and Andrei Tarkovsky are apt enough; and there is a lot of satisfaction equally in the award to Mirinal Sen's moral anecdote *The Case Is Closed* from India.

It remains open to speculation why the fine Hungarian actresses in Kézdi-Kovács's *Forbidden Relations* were passed over in favour of Hanna Schygulla's showy playing in Marco Ferreri's meretricious *Storia di Piera*; and why Robert de Niro's performance in Scorsese's *King of Comedy* of Oshima's bold enterprise in *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence* were quite passed over.

Britain come out of it with one prize at least: a special award for Terry Jones's comic originality in Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*. You lose some, you win some.

David Robinson

Television A long sad tale

Jonathan Raban's *Possibilities* on BBC2 last night was one of those plays best watched in company so that you have someone to share your bewilderment with. It took place within the confines of a flat which, when we last saw it, had blood pouring from the overflow.

The title, I take it, was meant to be ambiguous in terms of what could be done with the flat and what could happen to the occupant thereof.

The potential tenant, Simon, played by Robin Ellis, was being shown around by a garrulous estate agent, Tim Brooke-Taylor. This was Mr Brooke-Taylor's first straight part and he was required to invest it with all the worst qualities of the pushy estate agent.

He did it so well that I had had enough of him within ten minutes. Mr Ellis on the other hand didn't have to say a lot, he was fantasising about the flat and his possibly occupancy of it in the company of a blonde image, Anita. His fantasy was acted out between bouts of

estate agent garrulity, Carol Royle playing the girl.

Between her and Simon there was a disintegrating relationship that appeared to me to spring from some predisposition on his part to have disintegrating relationship. For the most part, when he wasn't being irritated by the estate agent, Simon was bemused and churlish. Certainly disintegration came over strongly.

In one of his fantasies, we saw Simon running the bath and instructing himself on where and how he would cut his veins with a razor blade. Then there was the bath, bubbling and blood-stained. Returning to reality, he left the flat only to meet outside the very image of the fantasy girl. He didn't run, as one might have expected the other way, but after the agent to make a bid.

From there it was a short cut to the blood coming out of that overflow. A sad, sad tale, too long at fifteen minutes.

Dennis Hackett

WEEKEND CHOICE

Nuclear confrontation of two distinct types make the Weekend World special Britain and the Bomb (tomorrow, Channel 4, 10.15 pm) the weekend's least expendable programme. On film (from Hiroshima to Cruise), there are big bangs galore. In the studio, there is a fine display of fireworks as Brian Walden tackles Messrs Hestline, Silkin, and Owen who retaliate vigorously after Mr Walden's first strike in his role as presenter.

One can almost hear the three political VIPs fizzing away on the launching pad during the hour or so it takes Mr Walden to reach the progress of the nuclear arms race and Britain's involvement in it. *Britain and the Bomb* is the first of five nuclear-based programmes to be screened by Channel 4 next week, culminating in a full-scale studio debate. Their impact on the general election campaign could be considerable.

Other television highlights: *Metro-Land* (tonight, BBC 2, 7.45 pm), Edward Mirzoeff's filmed essay about Sir John Betjeman's train journey through suburbia, lovingly photographed and endlessly amusing... A production of

Priestley's *Dangerous Corner* (tomorrow, BBC 1, 7.50 pm) so encrusted with stars that the old warhorse ought to be able to reach the finishing post with plenty of puff left... And the final film in Jane Glover's intelligent series called *Orchestra* (tomorrow, BBC 1, 10.55 pm) which ought to make for clearer minds in concert hall auditoriums.

Christopher Buggert's play *A Strangled Cry* (tomorrow, Radio 3, 8.05 pm), translated from the German by Alan Miles, finds nothing to say in favour of the twentieth century. Herr Buggert is entitled to his pessimism. And he is welcome to it. The infuriating thing, however, is that in his anecdotes, he sometimes put his finger on what is going wrong with our society.

He does, for example, make much of the elimination of personal identity, a theme for which he prepares us by making his cast share the prologue, taking over from one another's narration not only in mid-sentence but in mid-word. Producer Richard Wortley cannot have had an easy time of it.

Peter Davalle

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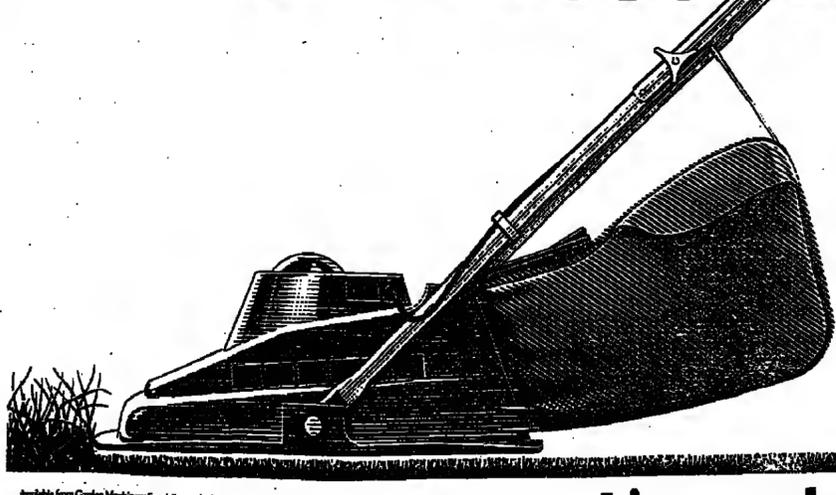
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THE TIMES DIARY

Case study

I really do not think much of the Tory advertising this time round. The poster advertising 10 bottles of claret to guess the SDP's policies is cheap - but possibly not cheap enough. A home economist of Margaret Thatcher's calibre - she used to board baked beans, remember - surely knows that claret is cheaper by the case, and a case contains 12 bottles. Or are the SDPs keeping one each? Meanwhile the Advertising Standards Authority has been fielding complaints about the national newspaper adverts inviting us to sign away our rights of vote Labour, which concluded: "I understand that if I sign this now I will not be able to change my mind for at least five years." It should, of course, have read: "I fully realize that I am guaranteed the right to change my mind within five years." The ASA says: "The advertisement is plainly wrong, but there is nothing we can do. Political advertising does not have to be decent, honest, or true." I expect you had already noticed that.

A case of claret then - no false economy in this column - for the reader who documents the earliest occasion on which a Tory statesman (or woman) claimed to see, as in another SDP poster, light at the end of the tunnel. Hint: it was rather a long time ago.

Quick turnover

Denis Healey is a proficler at heart. I tell that not from his writing, though I have had that under the microscope too, but from his conduct at yesterday's Labour press conference. He offered to produce copies of the now famous Central Policy Review Staff report on Unemployment and Young People for a contribution of £200 each to party funds. Any photo-copying firm would do the job for a fortieth of the price.

Out of season

Birmingham will have a tulip festival without tulips this year. Under Labour the council switched the festival to May Day. The Conservatives have returned it to its traditional date, Spring Bank Holiday, but they forgot to tell the gardeners. Pans staff now say the tulips will all be over by then. On May 1 there was a fine display, in pouring rain.

Base camping

Until now, the first and last time Lady Olga Maitland slept in a sleeping bag was ten years ago in a Turkish olive grove. When she repeats the experience this weekend, the scenery will be rather different, for the leader of Women and Families for Defence plans to camp in a caravan with three chums in the heart of Christian CND's Peace Festival rally at the proposed F11 site at Upper Heyford. Like cruise launchers, she would have difficulty getting through a cordon of peace pickets so she aims to move while her opponents are marching from Bicester. She fears the privations of caravan life more than she does the weekend neighbours.

If you want to get away from it all West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium is having an open day tomorrow.

Immersed

With everybody moaning about the weather, I thought Arthur Billet of Clack's Farm might be having second thoughts about the title of his new book *The Joy of Gardening*. Not a bit of it. "I am bedding out at the moment," Arthur told me proudly, "and I have never had such an easy season as this. No need to water the holes before putting the plants in, you see. We are right up to the top of the garden. With all these depressions following one after the other there has not been the hazard of May frosts either, and I have even got my Dutch climbing beans out. They are infinitely superior to old English runners, which we don't grow any more. Old English runners may be so-so, but old English horticulturalists, I am pleased to say, are as indefatigable as ever.

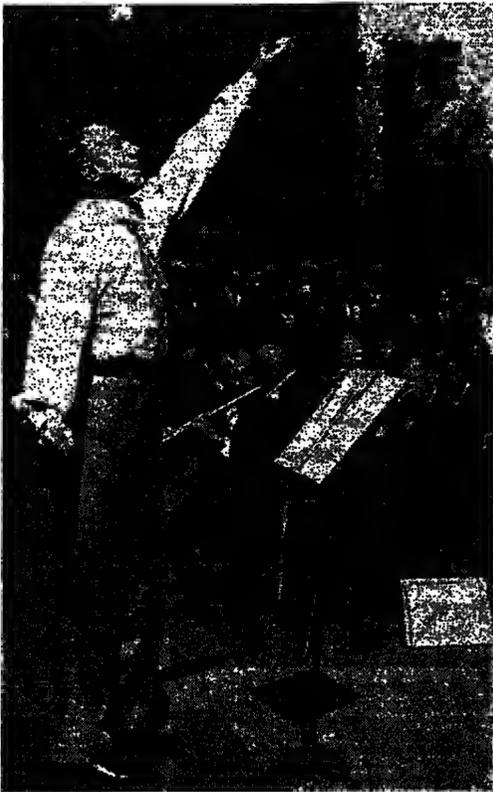
Red Beret Bisley

Falklands VC Colonel H. Jones is to have a trophy named after him at this year's Bisley rifle championships. The statuette of a paratrooper mounted on a wooden plinth is being made by craftsmen in Belize, where 2 Para is now stationed. The trophy will be presented by the battalion to the Hampshire Rifle Association and will be put up at the first inter-counties championship meeting next month.

Mark Dixon, newly returned from the Britain Salutes New York festival, contests a recent statement in *The Times* that somewhere in the world is the cockroach held in high regard. He cites the P.J. Clarke hamburger pub on Third Avenue, where a large, fat and recently fed American cockroach was served with his beer. When the head waiter arrived he warned: "Sir, if you continue to draw so much attention to what is, after all, only one cockroach, I will have to ask you to leave this restaurant." Dixon says he likes to think that in most good restaurants it is the cockroach, not the customer, who is escorted to the door.

Helene Hanff, author of '84 Charing Cross Road', recalls a girlhood hero

The night Stokowski left the Peanut shattered



Stokowski conducts an outdoor concert in 1938. He died at his Hampshire home in 1977 at the age of 95

The Saturday before Heartbreak Thursday was a perfectly ordinary concert-season Saturday. I mean we saw the orchestra men that day, we saw Marshall - and not one of them said anything. They didn't know any more that we did, that our world was going to end on Thursday. If they had, they would have warned us.

It rained that Saturday. It was April but very cold, so when I left the house after lunch I was wearing my old Girl Scout moccasins and my lumberjacket, and along with the brown paper bag with my dinner sandwiches in it I was carrying my family's automobile robe. We were going to be sitting on line for Peanut Gallery tickets from two in the afternoon till quarter to eight that night, and it wasn't going to get warmer as the hours went by.

I took the subway down to Broad and Walnut and walked the block to Broad and Locust where the Academy of Music was. The front entrance was on Broad Street, but running from the corner for half a block along Locust Street clear to the stage door and the Peanut Gallery entrance, there was this long step under a second-storey ledge. If you got on line early, you could sit on the step and wrap yourself in your old camp blanket or your family's automobile robe, and you were out of the wet because of the ledge. Whereas if you got on line late - say around four o'clock - the line would be clear down to the corner. And around the corner you had to stand bolt upright and freeze to death on Broad Street, which was the coldest, widest street in the entire city of Philadelphia.

Looking up Locust Street from the corner, I could see Fay and Natalie, by themselves, way up at the head of the step next to the stage door. Nobody else was there yet. Fay and Nat were best friends and they were always first on line and I loved sitting next to them because they knew Stokowski better than the rest of us did. I walked toward them, past the big wall posters above the step with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski, Conductor, and the week's programme with a streamer reading "Final Concerts of the Season" plastered across the bottom. I reached Fay and Nat and said hello and Fay said: "His box is full tonight."

The biggest speculative advantage to being first on line was, you might get to sit in Stokowski's box.

His cab drove up to the stage door at 7.30, minutes before the Peanut Gallery doors opened. He would get out of it and stride toward the stage door and the line would scream Hello - (nobody on line was over 21) - and Stokowski would wave back. But about every fourth Saturday, he would glance at the first people on line and hold up, say, three fingers. That meant there were three empty seats in his box for the concert. So the first three people would get out of line and go around to the front entrance and inform the usher with great dignity that they had been invited to sit in Mr Stokowski's box. Then they would carry their paper bags and coats and blankets up the grand staircase to the parquet circle and deposit themselves in the front seat of Stokowski's centre box.

At 8.30 his other guests would arrive, all got up in the evening clothes. One night it was Helen Hayes and her family. One night it was an ambassador home on a visit. Whoever it was just climbed over our coats, blankets and handbags piled on the floor and took the back seats we left for them. We never moved for anybody.

By six, it began to rain really hard, and the second big advantage to being first on line paid off. Marshall came out. Marshall Betz was the orchestra librarian, but along with looking after the scores, he was a sort of backstage factotum. He was red-faced and beefy and half-bald, and he glared ferociously before waving the group of us inside the stage door with a stubby, brawny arm.

"Now you go sit in the greenroom till the house opens," he bawled at us. "And behave yourselves!"

We went into the greenroom and left our handbags and dinner bags there, and Fay, who always knew where everything was, borrowed a backstage flashlight. Carrying our blankets and coats, we followed her flashlight up the five pitch-black flights to the pitch-black Peanut Gallery, and then we more or less felt our way down to the front row and spread our blankets and coats across the entire front row of

seats, to save them for friends who had had to go to the dentist or shopping with their mothers, and would get on line late and wind up way up at the back under the roof otherwise.

When we got back to the green room we made ourselves comfortable and had dinner. We were still sitting there at eight, when the orchestra men began drifting in. Some of the first-desk men - like Charlie Guskoff, the first trombone, and Willie Kincaid, the flautist - really liked us, and they'd come down-are-you. The rest of the men just looked at us and swore, in a discouraged fashion. About ten past eight, some second-violinist turned to us and said snappily: "Do you mind if I put on my other pants?" and we left for the Peanut. For 20 minutes we stood scanning the back of the house and shouting to friends to come on down. We had seats saved. Then Stokowski walked out to the podium and the house-lights went down, and there was nothing alive on earth but him and the music.

After the concert, we went across to the drug-store for milkshakes. To give Stokowski time to shower and change and go home. Then we went around to his house to serenade him. He lived at 1716 Rittenhuse Street, in a three-storey brownstone next to a corner parking lot. There was an art shop on the ground floor; he had the two upper floors. We would stand in the parking lot, around at the side under his living-room windows, and sing. After a minute, a living-room window would go up and Stokowski would lean out.

"How many of you are there?" he would call down. If there were six or less, he invited us up. If there were more than six, he would come down and sit on the front step and talk to us. That Saturday night there were 10 or 12 of us huddled in the parking lot when he opened the window. "How many of you are there?" he asked. "Six," said Fay.

So of course Stokowski said: "Go round to the front and I'll press the button." We went around to the front door, and we clambered up the narrow, rickety steps while Stokowski stood on the landing - his thick white hair straight up like a beacon above the navy shirt and slacks he had changed into - and counted us with his fingers and his lips. When we got to the top, he said: "Which is the sixth?" and we giggled. "Mind the wires," he said (He always had tangles of wires on the landing, he was always experiment-

ing with sound equipment). He led us into the living room and threw cushions on the floor in a circle for us to sit on. Then he sat in a floppy velvet armchair facing us, and asked how we'd liked the Shostakovich, and we started to talk. He didn't talk, he listened. Lounging in the chair with his long legs stretched out, he questioned every one of us about our reactions to the Shostakovich, his electric blue eyes fastened on each speaker in turn.

Youth concerts were held every fourth or fifth week; there were six of them during the concert season. You had to be aged between 13 and 25 to buy a ticket, and the Academy held 3,000 people - and even so, there were always a couple of hundred kids turned away. None of us could afford regular concert prices - \$3 downstairs, \$2.50 in the parquet circle and so on - except for the 50 cent seats in the Peanut. Well, Stokowski wanted every kid in town to be able to afford youth concert tickets, so he conducted for nothing and the orchestra played for nothing, and we acted as ushers and wrote the programme ourselves and sold ads in it to pay for the printing. So youth concert tickets cost 75 cents downstairs, 50 cents in the parquet circle, 35 cents in the balcony, 25 cents in the family circle and 10 cents in the Peanut, and a lot of high-school teachers would slip times to poor kids so everybody could go.

No seats were reserved in any of the boxes. We waited an hour in the rain before he finally came out. We asked him why he was leaving us, why he was going to Hollywood, of all places.

"We want to make music out of the concert hall," he said, "and give it to everybody. We have started to do this by making phonograph records and giving concerts on the radio. But there are countries where people don't have electricity in their homes. They have no record-players and no radio. What is astonishing is that everywhere in the world - everywhere - there are movie theatres. The orchestra and I are going to Hollywood to make movies - and pygmies in Africa and coolies in China will come to our movies, and hear Bach for the first time."

How could we say we didn't want him to give to people in Africa and China what he had given to us? None of us had ever heard any music - not real music - till our first youth concert. Music had transformed our lives since then. Stokowski had transformed our lives.

"That Radfield was hand-somely," Mr Hyam confessed, "was only one surprise for the rival secretary. He later met most of the Radfield 'teenagers' in a nearby cafe." Presumably the rival wished he had thought of this wheeze first. Mr Hyam's evidence would be of considerable interest in any future examination of soccer not just because it confirms Mr Bedford's strictures (in spades). The real point is that Mr Hyam's revelations are based upon ten years' managerial pot-poornery which began in the late 1950s - thus placing this particular soccer disorder firmly in the days when the professional players still knew their place, which was in baggy pants, under zip-fastener hair-partings and on low salaries.

Where what Mr Bedford and Mr Hyam would have to say leaves Mr Macfarlane, I'm not quite sure. The minister may be right when he opines that gold fever fuels soccer madness, but given that this former referee and former club secretary have to say about what amateur players and managers will get up to for free, I'm not so sure.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport (until June 9 at any rate) has upset the football fraternity, an easily moved body, with remarks he made during a seminar on soccer disorder at the Centre for Contemporary Studies.

Could it be, the Minister asked, that directors' tuggery and players' greed were as much a part of soccer mayhem as spectator violence? So saying, Mr Macfarlane did not stay firm and he streaked out to try and get himself re-elected for Sutton and Chesham, and so was gone before any toilet rolls could snake his way from that part of the crowd containing the likes of Mr Kenneth Bates, the chairman of Chelsea, and Mr Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association. As the folks at the Centre for Contemporary Studies like to say, there is need for further research.

May I suggest, therefore, that if and when Mr Macfarlane and his heir or assignee return to the soccer question, that a Mr Maryn Bedford and a Mr John Hyam be sent for? Let us start with Mr Bedford, who would be able to speak from the perspective of a soccer referee who once was refused his refereeing fee

by a club secretary. Mr Bedford's sin had been to award a penalty to the other team five minutes from the end of the match - at which point, Mr Bedford, would point out the secretary's team was winning 18-0.

Mr Bedford kicked off this soccer season with an intriguing article in a bi-weekly local newspaper, the *South London Press*. In this piece, he discussed his experience of five seasons and some 200 matches as a referee of amateur football. Remarkably, he also usually a linesman. Mr Bedford said: "If you ask him to watch his own forwards, you can be sure he will never wave his flag again... and if you tell him to watch the opposing team's strikers he will be miraculously transformed into an RAF semaphore." Mr Bedford makes it clear that to the climate of skulduggery that pervades south London amateur soccer, it were folly to be otherwise.

He remembers one match where a secretary/linesman astrophysically signalled that one of his own defenders had failed to scramble the ball off the goal-line. Mr Bedford daily awarded the goal, whereupon the game was delayed "while my

Not worth the paper it's hinted on

JUNE 24 83

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Sometimes it takes a DJ to pop the proper question. On Wednesday the hapless Mr Michael Foot was let loose on the Jimmy Young Show. He chose this slightly improbable occasion to start rabbiting on about the need "to stop the outflow of money from this country." So, he said, "we will restore exchange controls, the same as any other money."

But in this case, suggested Mr Young, were not the pension funds to be denied the right to maximise the return to those whose security in retirement depended on them? By no means, he was assured: "we absolutely guarantee that they will still be able to do that."

In fact you can search the length and depth of Labour's "suicide note" manifesto and you will not find that guarantee. What you will find is that "we will make sure that public borrowing is financed through the financial institutions and national savings," and this a "National Investment Bank" will "put new resources from private institutions... on a large scale into our industrial priorities." They must have burnt the midnight oil over that word "put".

So where does all this get us? Well, first, whatever else exchange controls might do they would not stop the outflow of money from this country; nor would they apply to any other money.

Back in 1976 you could not send a Kruggerand to your best beloved in Biarritz without the say-so of the Bank of England. Yet Denis Healey had to hitch a lift from Heathrow to the Treasury to catch the pound before it disappeared from the world. Exchange controls, in short, won't stop the outward stampede of overseas investors when the markets take fright at the performance of a British government; nor can they do anything about the propensity of international traders who get the wind up to pay bills early and delay the collection of their debts. All exchange controls can do - and that imperfectly in the money world - is to restrict the outward movement of funds in British ownership.

That in itself, of course, is quite incompatible with a "guarantee" of unfettered freedom, for the pension funds to place their money where they think it will get the best return. But let that pass. What happens to the funds they are not allowed to invest overseas? Are we

to believe Mr Foot that if the NUR pension fund wants to stock up with Rembrandts it will be free to do so? Or are we to believe the manifesto that it will have its pension contributions "put into the industrial priorities of Mr Wedgwood Benn?"

It does not take much imagination to see what those would be: the Concordes, the de Loreans, the Meriden cooperatives, the stockpiles of unwanted steel, the free ships for Poland, Fly the luckless railwaymen with that lot between them and their retirement.

There is a more fundamental illusion, though, that lies behind the mirage of exchange controls. It is the charge that since Sir Geoffrey Howe scrapped them back in 1979, thousands of millions of pounds have been stashed away in foreign parts by British institutions which might instead have financed British jobs at home. For what would have happened had we not acted; and had the outflow not occurred?

Over the lifespan of the late Parliament we chalked up a current account surplus of some £13,000m. If there had not been a spuntaneous outflow of British investment overseas then one of two things would have had to happen: (a) we would have accumulated reserves (which would have meant that instead of private businesses acquiring assets overseas to yield a far return long after North Sea oil has gone, the Bank of England would have acquired a lot of US Treasury bills); or (b) the exchange rate would have risen to the point at which foreigners decided to take their cash from London.

In neither case would a single extra job have been thereby generated here at home. Indeed, had the second route been followed, both exporting and competing with imported goods for domestic markets would have been tougher. It is the ultimate irony that the politicians and commentators who clamour for exchange controls should be the same who also vituperate about the "excessive level of the pound". It really is about time they spared a moment for the laws of mathematics.

The author, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was Conservative MP for Knutsford. He is not seeking reelection.

Monday: Barbara Castle

Julie Davidson

Look, no hand-out - but they sell

Sometimes, picking my way gladly through the variety of, pressing duties which come between me and the typewriter (a plant to water here, a picture to straighten there) I think about Anthony Trollope. If Trollope didn't invent self-discipline, he certainly patented it; sitting down to write at six each morning, with, in front of him, the watch which urged him to produce 250 words every 15 minutes.

At 9.30 am, having completed his daily 3,500 words, he got down to work - for the Post Office. Trollope, the patron of the pillar box, was a senior civil servant for most of his adult life and resigned from the service only in his fifties, when he fell out with the Postmaster General. The loss of his pension was no great hardship. He had already earned a comfortable standard of living from a celebrated canon of literary work - without favour of subsidy, bursary, award, grant or even prize money. Trollope, like most writers before the second half of the twentieth century, never imagined that his spare-time scribbling was something which required help from the state.

I was thinking again about Trollope this week while the Irish-Canadian novelist Brian Moore was visiting Scotland to pick up an unsolicited £3,000 from the Scottish Arts Council. Moore, and in no way do I address my remarks *ad hominem* - is the sixth recipient of the Neil Gunn International Fellowship, which is one of the SAC's more sensible handouts.

The award is made every two years partly to honour the memory of a fine Scottish novelist (Neil Gunn died shortly before the fellowship was founded in 1972) and partly to honour and bring to Scotland writers of international distinction. Over the decade Heinemann's *Scottish Writers' Prize* was only one surprise for the rival secretary. He later met most of the Radfield "teenagers" in a nearby cafe. Presumably the rival wished he had thought of this wheeze first. Mr Hyam's evidence would be of considerable interest in any future examination of soccer not just because it confirms Mr Bedford's strictures (in spades). The real point is that Mr Hyam's revelations are based upon ten years' managerial pot-poornery which began in the late 1950s - thus placing this particular soccer disorder firmly in the days when the professional players still knew their place, which was in baggy pants, under zip-fastener hair-partings and on low salaries.

Where what Mr Bedford and Mr Hyam would have to say leaves Mr Macfarlane, I'm not quite sure. The minister may be right when he opines that gold fever fuels soccer madness, but given that this former referee and former club secretary have to say about what amateur players and managers will get up to for free, I'm not so sure.

There is an argument for this particular piece of taxpayers' patronage; or at least as much of an argument as exists for sending MPs on fact-finding missions to Belize or Botswana. The exercise discourages parochialism. But perhaps it should serve another purpose. Perhaps the importation of successful writers able to support themselves without artificial aids should offer a silent lesson to all those British poets, playwrights,

novelists, critics and essayists whose state is underpinned by the state and who seem unaware that most of the world's distinguished writers pursued their craft on a part-time basis, and rarely gave up other employment until their works had become profitable.

All the great nineteenth century writers had either full-time jobs or, like Flaubert, meant means to support their efforts. Dickens is the supreme example of hectic industry, at one time editing four newspapers while producing his marvellous fiction on the side. Thomas Hardy didn't give up his job as architect until after the success of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, and Zola had delivered *Therese Raquin* and a body of critical essays before he ditched his humble clerical work.

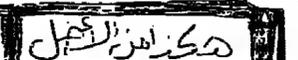
Even poets have worked, often unromantically. Wordsworth was a bank official and Philip Larkin was a librarian. But more writers have probably come out of journalism, the universities and teaching than any other discipline. An academic life, it is assumed, encourages reflection and provides the time; journalism nurtures the crude skills and maybe supplies some of the material, as Kipling, Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh found.

It always gives me a kind of frenzied self-righteous pleasure to leaf through the details of the latest Arts Council "bursaries", as they like to call their hand-outs. This past year the Scottish Arts Council's literature allocation was £420,000. Some of this was spent on awards for published works and literary prizes; some was spent subsidising the activities of small publishers, but £27,000 of it was distributed among writers in order (in the magic phrase) "to enable them to devote more time to their writing". From their *curriculum vitae* you can judge that most of them have given up gainful employment to do so.

The canon produced by some applicants often includes what you and I would call freelance journalism, the stuff peddled in the marketplace and declared to the Inland Revenue. In one or two cases nothing but a selection of theatre reviews or newspaper articles seems to be on offer. Can it really be right that the state should underpin the works of would-be drama critics or essayists, who then receive the usual decent or indecent fee for their contributions?

Full-time journalists have also been known to write novels and plays. Staff journalists often take a legitimate sabbatical or unpaid leave of absence to find the time, or simply get up earlier. Freelance journalists also accommodate their creative ambitions within the framework of routine tasks. I know none who has applied for an Arts Council grant, but they may not achieve the quality of Dickens, but at least they follow his example.

Ross Davies





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HONEST MONEY

Prices have risen by four per cent in the past twelve months, according to yesterday's announcement. At that rate of inflation, prices will rise by 50 times in the next hundred years. A five per cent annual rise would give us an increase of 130 times in the same period. Yesterday's rise was hailed as an achievement, which it is entitled to be as the best figure for fifteen years, and the best in food prices for twenty years. However, by historical standards of price inflation in this country, a range of between three and five per cent is still very high. Moreover it is not a case of prices "coming down". They are still rising. They are just rising more slowly, so a four per cent rise, though encouraging, is still not good enough.

The election arguments about inflation seem to have taken second place to those about unemployment. That may be for two reasons. The first is that inflation is a "blat" word. It is not the same thing as rising prices, which may be caused by inflationary factors but need not be. Prices can increase for a number of reasons. A sustained rise in prices, however, which is what we call inflation, is caused by an increase in the supply of money beyond the limits achieved by increases in production.

The second reason why politicians do not like to discuss inflation is that it has political causes, for which they are responsible. They advocate policies which they know cannot be paid for in real money, but have not the courage or honesty to admit as much. So they print dishonest money instead.

It is easier, therefore, to ignore the necessary discipline of countering inflation and to focus on the pain of curing an inflated economy instead. It is easier to indulge in special pleading for particular victims, than to admit responsibility for causing a condition that, if not cured, leads to a much more general malaise affecting all ages, and all sections of society, not just those unemployed people who are suffering the side effects of the cure. The idea that politicians have a choice of policy between inflation and unemployment is still peddled widely on election platforms. The figures for the past thirty years show that idea to be as false as the original deceit.

The Conservatives between 1951 and 1964 presided over an average annual price increase of 3 1/2 per cent, with an average of 330,000 unemployed. The figures for Labour 1964-70 were 4 1/2 per cent; 500,000; for Conservatives 1970-74, 9 per cent; 750,000; for Labour 1974-9, 15 per cent; 1 1/2 m; and for Conservatives 1979-83, 12.7 per cent; 2.1 m. That shows that it is only too possible, indeed inevitable, to have rising inflation and rising unemployment at the same time. We now have falling inflation without yet seeing the evidence of falling unemployment. Nevertheless there is economic evidence of renewed growth, both in Britain and overseas. People in work have also seen their living standards steadily improve, while overseas, in spite of an overall decline in world trade, British exports and Britain's share have increased.

One can play about with these statistics for ever without getting to the heart of the matter. That is

that no economic system, and certainly no democratic political economy, can for long survive when its currency, on which all economic activity is based, is itself unstable. An unstable currency undermines society. Without confidence that the currency will maintain its value, citizens cannot go about their business with any certainty. The future is unpredictable. Houses cannot be bought and sold with confidence. Holidays cannot be planned. Children cannot be provided for. Savings and pensions become almost hallucinations.

These may seem to be only bourgeois values which are threatened by such instability. But it should not be assumed that the search for a decent competence is the exclusive prerogative or ambition of the middle classes. It is something which inspires all members of society. When politicians pursue policies which undermine a stable currency they are subverting all society. It is like loosening the cement in the brickwork of an old and precious building.

Rising prices are not just an abstraction to be argued about by experts. They hurt us all, since inflation is a form of taxation without representation. It is based on a deceit at the heart of the body politic. In a free society that is not just a question of practicality, as might be supposed from listening to the arguments on the television screen. It is a question of morality. Every British banknote carries the words: "I promise to pay the bearer on demand." That promise has been broken as much to the unemployed as to those in work. It is time it was kept.

DECOMPRESSION PAINS

Before the military coup of 1980 Turkey had something like a two-party system. Political life was polarized between the conservative Justice Party of Mr Süleyman Demirel and the social-democratic Republican People's Party of Mr Bülent Ecevit. But neither was able to gain an overall majority. Nor could their leaders agree to work together. This was one of the reasons for the paralysis of government and the descent into anarchy and bankruptcy which preceded the coup.

The generals who took power at that time, having pushed through their own constitution and obtained popular ratification of it last November, have now allowed new political parties to be formed in preparation for elections in November of this year. The old parties and all their leaders are banned from politics for ten years. Four new parties have been formed under the new constitution this week, and a fifth is expected next week.

But already President Evren and his colleagues are finding out what so many authoritarian would-be liberalizers have found before them, from Louis Napoleon to Sadat: liberalization does not work, indeed does not mean anything, unless you let people do what they want rather than what you want.

Of course no Turk in his senses wants to go back to the situation of September 11 1980, but at the same time many of the components of that situation, and among them the RPP and

JP, were the expression of genuine opinions and forces deeply rooted in Turkish society.

Mr Evren, by virtue of last November's vote, is president for seven years under a constitution which (like the French) allows the president to appoint the government but requires that the latter enjoy the confidence of an elected parliament. Such a system works smoothly only if there is a strong majority party seeing eye to eye with the president on the main lines of policy. Mr Evren wanted it to be a centre party led by his former fellow-general, Mr Turgut Sünalp. Mr Sünalp was first off the mark, registering his Nationalist Democracy Party at the Interior Ministry on Monday after a well-publicized meeting with the President last week. But even before that party was officially announced, things were going on unofficially which moved the president to express his displeasure in strong terms. Causes of former leaders and members of the old parties were being held to discuss tactics and to decide behind which, if any, of the new parties they would throw their weight.

If the former parties and their leaders were as thoroughly discredited with the people as the regime's rhetoric implies, such goings on would be of little significance. Why then was the president so incensed that he threatened to postpone the elections if this sort of thing went on? Presumably because he knows or suspects that the old

politicians are still influential enough to swing votes one way or the other.

It is generally assumed, for instance, that without the whispered support of Mr Demirel the Nationalist Democracy Party will stand little chance of gaining popular support. So Mr Demirel's decision (common knowledge, even though officially unmentionable) to sponsor the rival Grand Turkey Party, founded yesterday, may prove the coup de grâce to the president's scheme. Indeed, there is even a danger that his attempt to impose a preconceived party system will actually produce a more fragmented political spectrum than would otherwise be the case.

Meanwhile universities have been crippled by a sweeping ideological purge, a distinguished editor is in prison for reprinting an article published legally twenty years ago, a retired ambassador faces a long prison sentence for forming a peace association and the correspondent of an American news agency is being refused a passport (having been beaten up in a police station when he went to apply for it). None of this matters very much to the majority of Turks, who are still deeply grateful for civil peace even if many of them have taken a dislike to real wages. The generals know how to administer martial law. It is as they advance towards democracy that they are going to be embroiled in contradictions.

WHEN THE LAW SUPPOSES

In his Hamlyn lectures this week, Lord Hailsham called for fresh thinking about the drafting and interpretation of statutes.

His timing could hardly be better. The tide of judicial complaints about the difficulty of understanding modern statutes is rising fast. Last week Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, criticized the convoluted state of the legislation governing driving offences and pointed out that it would be very surprising if judges did not make mistakes in this branch of the law. A few days previously Lord Diplock, the senior Law Lord, echoing the views of Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, criticized the lack of clarity in the legislation governing industrial relations.

These are serious matters. The rule of law, which is the foundation of any parliamentary democracy, depends not only on people accepting that they should obey the law, but also on their being able to find out what it is. If even the judges are having difficulties, there is real reason for concern.

Can laws be written for the man in the street? Modern society is so complex, and the social policies involved in legislation so finely tuned, that in most cases this can be no more than a pipedream. If the dream were ever to be realized, it would soon turn out to be a nightmare, because the laws would have been drafted in such general

terms as to give an unacceptably wide measure of discretion to the courts.

How can the present shortcomings of modern legislation be overcome? Some of the symptoms of the disease are more easily treated than others. In last week's case, for instance, Lord Lane pointed out that driving while disqualified involves considering no less than two statutes, four sections and three schedules. One way of remedying this kind of evil would be by ensuring, as far as possible, that where a statute needs to be amended this is done by re-enacting the whole statute, or complete parts of it, in amended form, so that the rules can all be read in a single document.

Another irritant is our legislators' present habit of bringing different bits and pieces of a statute (sometimes even different parts of the same section) into force at different dates, none of which are specified in the statute itself.

The fundamental problem is, however, much more intractable. It is the style of legislative drafting itself. Statutes have become too long, too detailed and too turgid. Sometimes the gobbledygook is so extreme that examples are published in the press for readers' entertainment. They are not so amusing, however, for those who have to understand the law, and for

those whose every-day decisions depend on its meaning.

To some extent the judges must share responsibility with the draftsmen for the unsatisfactory style of modern legislation. They have in the past tended from time to time to adopt an over-literal interpretation of the words of a statute, sometimes at the expense of its purpose. This has led the draftsmen to draft in ever-increasing detail, to cover every possible contingency, for fear that otherwise the courts will declare that something which was plainly intended to be included in the statute has been left out. If there is to be a change in legislative style, the draftsmen will need the full cooperation of the courts.

What seems to be needed is some movement on both fronts: (a) a broader style of legislative drafting on the one hand, and (b) a somewhat more purposive approach to statutory interpretation by the courts. As Lord Hailsham has pointed out in the present jungle of statute law it would be an imprudent judge who did not take into account the main legislative purpose of an Act, and the political and social context in which it was passed. It is probably inevitable that greater simplicity in legislative drafting will confer a greater discretion on the courts in interpreting statutes, but there is no alternative if the law is to remain accessible to the people.

Television's role in the election

From Dr Brian Harrison
Sir, I wonder whether you are right to say (May 18) that the party leaders' presidential or "personalised" general election campaign dates only from 1959 and originates with television? It was prime ministerial success in war that enabled Palmerston, Lloyd George and Churchill to dominate the general elections of 1857, 1918 and 1945, respectively, and it was campaigning zeal plus an exciting issue that elevated Gladstone to such heights in 1868 and 1886.

And, as Joseph Chamberlain in 1900 and Lloyd George in January, 1910 show, one does not even need to be a party leader to gain such prominence. Indeed, a party leader may sometimes think it best to advertise his "team" at an election, as Harold Wilson did in October 1974. Some elections - 1895, 1906 and October, 1974 - have not been presidential at all.

Of course television capitalises on political excitement, but it is only the latest among several media developments whose political impact has been exaggerated: radio, the popular press and the public meeting all provoked similar comment in their day.

Much more important than any linear and technological trend as an influence on campaigning style is surely the more fluctuating impact made by the combination of personality, policy and circumstance - whereby the politician applies his traditional skills to the mind of the voter.

In 1868 this combination proved the salvation of one bad speaker, according to Bagehot the candidate, when asked to explain his success, replied "oh, I do not know what to say, I say 'Gladstone', and they are sure to cheer, and I have time to think".

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HARRISON,
Corpus Christi College,
Oxford,
May 18.

Holding the line

From Mr Stanley Lees
Sir, I am pleased that Mr. Gower (May 16) has drawn attention to British Rail's plan to quietly close the spectacular Carlisle-Settle line, probably within 18 months. The official reason is that the magnificent 24-arch Ribbleshead viaduct is now structurally unsafe and four trains daily do not justify the restoration costs. The unofficial reason suggests a policy of planned neglect.

As far back as 1967 BR knew from survey reports that the viaduct needed restoration. Instead of starting while the project was of manageable size, the decision was made to quietly run the line down, culminating in the withdrawal of the direct passenger service between the west of Scotland and the north Midlands.

The long-term strategy must be to develop the line as a revenue earner for the area. There are several private steam railway companies in the north who require to redefine their role. Instead of being custodians of railway heritage, they need to come together in an entrepreneurial way to work the line. The experience of the Ffestiniog railway shows what can be done.

If these bodies can unite with some local authority support the prospects of preserving a unique piece of history are good. It is asking a lot from voluntary bodies, but they start off with an asset far richer than money - staff committed to the organisation and believing in what they do.

That is something which cannot be claimed by our most profitable institutions, or British Rail.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY LEES,
96 Chesnut Lane,
Amersham,
Buckinghamshire,
May 17.

The Denver Boot

From Mr Roderick Parker
Sir, Motorists in London who park illegally now risk having their cars immobilized by the police with wheel clamps. Necessary although no doubt it is to further deter offenders, I wonder if it is the best approach. Apart from the sheer time involved for the traffic wardens and police in attaching (and one hopes eventually removing) the clamps, there is a veritable array of accompanying paraphernalia, including special "Clamp Unit" police vans, specially printed stickers for the offenders' windcreens etc.

Before this vastly expensive exercise is repeated across the country, would it not be better to look into linking the payment of parking fines with the road fund tax computer?

Switzerland has done this for years. No road fund tax disc for next year, until you have paid all outstanding fines - very simple and very effective.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK PARKER,
8 Bovingdon Road, SW6,
May 16.

From Mr D. A. R. Williams

Sir, In my simple way, I had assumed that the purpose of parking restrictions was to prevent obstruction of the highway.

As parking fines seem to mean little to so many, can someone tell me how the interests of the public are served by ensuring that an obstruction remains in place?

Yours faithfully,
D. A. R. WILLIAMS,
Woodlands,
Fergandenny,
Perthshire,
May 18.

Press reports on Israeli war conduct

From Mr William Frankel
Sir, As the source of the words you quote in your leader, "Friends beyond the need", (May 16), I hope you will permit me to comment on the selective quotation and the polemic you construct on that foundation.

The context of the quoted phrase is important. What I said, in opening the symposium on "The Media and the Lebanon war" of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, was: "No other event since the creation of the State of Israel has so exercised the consciousness of Jews throughout the world as the war in Lebanon. Various opinions are held as to its necessity and the manner in which it was conducted. But on one issue there is virtual unanimity and that is that Israeli actions were justified and disturbed by the Western media: that the case for Israel was not presented at all or misrepresented."

I fail to see any grounds for inferring from these words, as does your leader, that I am an apologist for the Begin government. In fact, I have opposed many of its policies, as reference to a number of articles I contributed to your columns between 1977 and 1981 will confirm. It is surely contrary to your own normal standards of discussion in attempt to deflect criticism by impugning the bona fides of the critic.

At the symposium strong criticism of your coverage of the Lebanon war was expressed. Rather than replying to any of the specific criticisms that have been made, you have evaded the issue by attacking the person of the critic.

Your leader writes seeks to justify your coverage of the Lebanon war by claiming that similar criticisms were published in the Hebrew press. The justifiable and informed criticism in those newspapers ought not to be employed as a white sheet to cover some of your own reports and your own normal standards of discussion for British citizenship. They have observed that the Home Office stands to make a profit of £6m through the charges currently made. There is a justifiable assumption that the making of profits is hardly relevant to such an activity and that costs should not be a deterrent to those who wish to become British.

For those in full employment, earning reasonable salaries, perhaps the charges may be regarded as reasonable. However, the ethnic minority groups from whom such applications will come, are suffering more greatly than most from unemployment. There is no supplementary benefit payment made to such people for the length of the issue is compounded when one considers the plight of refugees. By the act of fleeing their country of nationality they have become stateless with all the connotations of

Naturalization cost

From Mr Roy Tindle
Sir, The All-Party Home Affairs Committee have recommended cuts in the level of fees charged for naturalization and for registration for British citizenship. They have observed that the Home Office stands to make a profit of £6m through the charges currently made. There is a justifiable assumption that the making of profits is hardly relevant to such an activity and that costs should not be a deterrent to those who wish to become British.

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Labour Party unity

From Mr John Chapman
Sir, James Curran's article, "The message Foot must get across" (The Times, May 11) contains certain inaccuracies. Mr Curran asserts that "since late last summer, Tony Benn has been urging party unity to anyone who will listen," and goes on to allege that the principal grassroots organization of the left, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, belatedly followed Benn's lead and has pressed for an honourable peace since last October.

To set the record straight: The party unity initiative was first proposed by CLPD's Secretary, Vladimir Derer, to the 1981 CLPD annual general meeting. He was backed by the majority of the retiring CLPD executive committee. Vladimir Derer stated: "Most Labour supporters and members are aware of the dangers of disunity to the party's electoral prospects; they realise that any Labour government is preferable to continued Conservative rule. For this reason they are anxious to see the re-establishment of a degree of party unity which

Sound and fury

From Brigadier Sir Gilbert Heathcote
Sir, Why is nothing being done to control the increasingly intrusive noise from motorcycles? Often it seems they are ridden with the sole purpose of making as much as possible.

Not long ago the country was up in arms about two or three daily flights by Concorde; more recently Parliament's time has been taken up with the effects of larger lorries on our roads. But anyone living near a main road, as well as your columnist Joanna Lumley (May 4) will agree that neither of these causes as much irritation or discomfort as the vicious blare of a hard-ridden motorcycle.

The contrast is heightened when one knows that the former are going about their business whereas the single rider howling through his gears, often late at night, seems bent on making his presence felt. Only well be successful!

There are laws about creating a nuisance and others about pollution and surely noise in this form is pollution at its worst. There are methods of measuring noise levels. There is also evidence in your own

innocents who died" is also unwarranted. Nothing remotely resembling this suggestion was uttered at the symposium, nor am I aware of its expression by any responsible Israeli or Jewish source.

It grieves me to write in this fashion to a great newspaper with which I felt privileged to have been associated. But I cannot refrain from responding to a statement of editorial opinion which departs so seriously from accepted standards of journalism and constitutes, in applying your own words, "a collective slur on the majority of the Anglo-Jewish community."

Yours etc.
WILLIAM FRANKEL,
5 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4,
May 16.

From Dr A. I. Miles

Sir, Writing as an expatriate and the director of an intensive care unit in an Israeli hospital during the war in Lebanon, I must disagree with your editorial (May 16) defending your Beirut reporter's coverage of that event.

I, too, did not agree with that war. I despise Sharon and his policies and I know at first hand that war is a terrible thing. On the other hand, to report the Lebanese conflict simply from the point of view of the casualties and destruction brought about by the Israeli aggression without reference to the antecedent history, blurring the fact that Lebanon and Beirut had been devastated and raped for years prior to the Israeli invasion by the PLO was deplorable.

Deliberately to use descriptive terminology previously reserved for Nazi atrocities, was to display a prejudice which I found deeply offensive.

Repeatedly and sickeningly to describe the Sabra and Shatila massacres as though it were committed by Israelis, when the perpetrators are Arabs still running free in Gemayel's Beirut was not only dishonourable but also a clear incitement to racial hatred in this country, against those British citizens you have chosen to call "expatriates."

Sincerely,
ARNOLD I. MILES,
95 Eyre Court, NW8.
* The use of the word "expatriate" was inappropriate and has led to misunderstandings which we regret.

As seen from Poland

From Mr J. W. Wolontiecki
Sir, Professor Cheng (May 19) may well be right in saying that a system of liability without fault to compensate passengers for injuries sustained in air travel would save the airlines money in the long run. However, I doubt if it would save the passengers money.

Airlines, even I like to think in my innocence, British Airways are in business to make a profit. The costs of higher compensation and of making provision for liability without fault, would inevitably be passed on to the passenger in the form of higher fares. At present the intending passenger is free to choose: he can pay for his own insurance, or pay more to "fly the flag", or he can take the chance of recovering too little, or nothing in the event of an accident.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. WOLONTIECKI,
21 Aradzia Gardens,
Wood Green, N22,
May 18.

Song of experience

From Mr Charles Quant
Sir, During the Falklands war last year, we were greatly embarrassed by our friendly neighbourhood blackbird, who endlessly declaimed "Gallieri" in unmistakable notes. Stanley, he fell silent.

But this year he has started again and, when Mrs Thatcher announced the general election, he redoubled his mellifluous declamations, completely out-calling a colleague in another tree whose theme is "Pretty birdie, Whoopee."

Does this indicate a growth of political awareness among blackbirds? Yours faithfully,
CHARLES QUANT,
Silverwood,
Gwernymynydd,
Mold,
Clwyd.

Forty years on

From Mr Michael Charlesworth
Sir, That disappearing German plane: could it be Hess dumping the Hitler diaries in the sea?

Yours etc.
MICHAEL CHARLESWORTH,
The Burgage,
9 Kennedy Road,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire,
May 19.

Hooked on the fly

From Mr John Hewish
Sir, Before a new myth is created, may I counter Stewart Tendler ("Saturday", May 14) that fly fishing was "nncce the sport of the few" in the West Country, Wales and Scotland (many regions in the North, too) any boy with a few shillings for his first split-cane rod and a friendly neighbouring farmer could fly fish for brown trout.

No doubt fishing on dreary reservoirs for soggy farm-bred rainbows is fast becoming the sport of the many, alas!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HEWISH,
47 Dartmouth Park Hill, NWS.



2, 3 Travel: How Mauritius survived the dodo, and what not to miss in Athens



5, 6 Values: Getting married in style; In the Garden; Video Review; Drink on cider; and Theatre

THE TIMES Saturday

7 Grand old man of Photography; Critics' choice of Music; Dance; Opera; Fairs; and Galleries



9, 10 Family Life: Jeans and genes; Films; Collecting; and The Week Ahead in detail



21-27 MAY 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Chelsea's darling buds of May

From wildly exotic to extraordinarily ordinary, the Chelsea Flower Show is the supreme exhibition of plant life. Anthony Huxley, a veteran of the event, previews next week's sixty-second show

The Chelsea Flower Show is one of the great institutions and pleasures of the English year. More than thirty annual attendees have turned it into a kind of impressionistic tableau in my mind, but I can still recall some of my feelings on my very first visit.

In 1949, I had just joined the staff of the weekly magazine *Amateur Gardening* and I knew something about the plants and gardening but virtually nothing about the horticultural industry. In May, the editor marshalled his team, each of whom was to write up a section of the show. I was very apprehensive and totally unprepared for its magnitude, the great double row of various stands that greets the visitor at the main entrance, the vast marquee around the corner, and what was within it.

What extraordinary plants were there - plants I had never dreamt of! What familiar plants grown to incredible size and perfection! What gardens - the rock gardens most awe-inspiring with their huge rocks, which one could hardly believe had not been there for years yet were to be dismantled after the show. It seemed impossible for me ever to come to terms with the diversity of garden plants and their cultivation. I wandered in a daze till one of my colleagues reminded me that we had to piece the show report together by that evening.

From the first, then, I had a vested interest in the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Show, and a privileged one, too. I was able on press day to see it in its most perfect, new-minted condition, without the crowds. Chelsea continued to be a mine of horticultural knowledge, especially as time went by and I began to know the begetters of that knowledge, the growers and nurserymen as well as all those horticultural cognoscenti who come on press day to take part in the meetings of the RHS committees, judging exhibits and plants.

This great show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital since 1913 with interruptions from two world wars; this year's show is the sixty-second. It is the present culmination of shows held since 1827, at the Society's original gardens at Chiswick, its second gardens in Kensington and then what are now called the Embankment Gardens near Charing Cross. Following an international horticultural exhibition co-sponsored by the RHS and held in the Royal Hospital grounds, the RHS took over on a regular basis and in 1913 the first "Great Spring Show" was held there, starting a cordial relationship which continues unabated.



Orchids are a man's best friend: Ray Bilton, owner of McBeans in Lewes, East Sussex, with some of his 8,000 plants valued at £160,000

with the society leasing the show area for 40 days each year. In 1913 a marquee of some three-quarters of an acre was erected; today the marquee covers three acres and a half, one of the biggest tents in the world. Under this giant spread of canvas most of the stands are from nurserymen, naturally enough, for one must always remember that the basis of Chelsea is commercial - however far flowers seem removed from commerce. Many of these firms are small ones, office-losing family businesses.

Some exhibits are collective, like the huge display always created by the National Farmers Union, combining vegetables, fruit, cut flowers and ornamental pot plants - a unique piece of traditional staging. The National Association of Flower Arranging Societies is usually there, parks departments mount positive landscapes like a recent lakeside mill; there are collective displays of horticultural and conservation societies and further joint groups from abroad, mostly staged by horticultural co-operatives like those of Belgium and Colombia.

Amateurs have their place, too. Last year, for instance, we had a large exhibition of rare ferns from a well-to-do amateur whose hobby is plants, who has previously excited admiration with tropical species, some hardly known botanically, collected in travels all over the world. In contrast there was a tiny exhibit of north American lewisias from an amateur alpine specialist. Both, incidentally, gained gold medals.

All these exhibits, large and small, are assembled like some great rectangular jigsaw, so that the really determined can walk along every gangway and make

sure they see everything. But stands are arranged very much at random in terms of plant content. One might walk by an array of giant begonias and delphiniums, one of bizarre cacti garnished with exotic epiphyllum blooms, a woodland of huge-flowered rhododendrons, lilies, tropical and indoor plants.

From South Africa, there may be the unbelievable, artificial-looking proteas and their kin; from the Bahamas, the bizarre heliconias, gaudy in red and yellow; then, perhaps, sinister carnivorous plants alongside roses, pinks, irises, alpacas, strawberries - almost everything one can think of.

Stands of orchids are usually ranged alongside each other. Thousands of plants make orchidophiles drool, and represent hundreds of thousands of pounds in value. The time is late May but there will be February snowdrops and acacias, summer lilies and anouals. Behind the show lies months of preparation, weeks of carefully orchestrated forcing and retardation. It is a major exercise to create a Chelsea stand, assembling the material in the best possible condition, transporting it, setting out the plants and any props, and maintaining it for the show's four public days. It is not only cut blooms that begin to look past their best by Friday - many of these are replaced midweek - but shrubs like rhododendrons: the dust and stuffy atmosphere take their toll of these too.

To the east and south of the marquee two roadways are fringed by gardens. These days costs have forced the simplification of the rock gardens but there is usually one good

example complete with cascading stream. The rest are immensely varied. Most echo the aspirations of the average small-scale gardener, and demonstrate the possibilities of DIY with summerhouse, greenhouse, pergola, terrace, statuary, pool and fountain - sometimes, perhaps, they have too many features, and the more successful are those showing some self-discipline. Sometimes these practical layouts are enlivened by some exotic fantasy, or food for thought provided by a plot demonstrating herbs or wild flowers, a cottage garden, and one reverts carefully thought out layout for wheelchair-bound gardeners.

Among a good deal of "hard landscape", planting is usually contrived just to create maximum display in the show's short span. But this is surely a reasonable artifice: a planting which could be seen to provide for other seasons would not catch the eye in this week of May.

The marquee exhibits seem as elaborate and certainly as painstaking as ever they were. When I first went to Chelsea some of the biggest eye-catchers were from the great seed firms who had made their fortunes supplying seeds for Victorian bedding schemes: their displays, for instance, five feet tall, reflecting incredibly expensive preparation during the previous months. Annuals are more limited these days and of a size more easily attainable.

One great turning point came perhaps 20 years ago when the Continental co-operatives first came. Their methods of staging were an absolute revelation at the time, and nurserymen became aware of new possi-

bilities in handling plant material. These days some of the staging seems based simply on the desire to do something new, and sometimes borders on the absurd: but such exhibits create amazement and amusement and are a desirable foil to beautiful natural-looking groups of perennials or the annual artistic masterpiece of colour blending of house plants from one great nursery. Some firms are unaffected by change - one or two, I believe, have not altered their display appreciably in 30 years!

Chelsea is not a competitive show in the sense of having

prizes for the best camellia or set of turnips. But a range of awards is made by the RHS committees. Nurserymen and garden designers regard these as very important: a gold medal is a real seal of excellence, and sometimes the society has recriminations over awards considered too low. The RHS Council members sit late into the night on Monday making sure that committee awards are regarded by all as equitable.

The horticultural experts I mentioned earlier have always been integral to Chelsea. But - certainly up to the 1939-45 war - a lot of other visitors,



A hundred years of hybridization: Three of McBeans' most famous and complex orchids. Above: Highland Velvet (Miltonia) which originated in Central America



Lewis delight (Lycaste Auburn): The fruit of a celebrated crossing of Balltae with Sunrise



Royal wedding (Odontoglossum): Carried by the Princess of Wales at her wedding

especially on the first (Fellows') day, came to be seen as much as to see. Chelsea Show was a social event on a par with Ascot and Henley. I am told that in those days the orchids had a tent to themselves and no one not wearing tails and a silk hat was allowed in. On Wednesday these rich people passed their tickets to their head gardeners. Chelsea is still a great annual event, and the fact that royalty comes to view at the end of press day gives it much prestige; but nowadays socialites would resent the crowds; it is much more everyman's show.

Whether you come in on a Member's ticket, to visit Chelsea is something of an endurance test.

The author was for many years on the staff, and latterly Editor of *Amateur Gardening*. For the last 12 years he worked as author and editor of both gardening and botanical books - his 31st is being launched at Chelsea. He has served on the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society since 1979 and holds their Veitch Memorial Medal for services to horticulture and the Victoria Medal of Honour, their highest award.

Guide to this year's eye-catching exhibits

The Royal Parks are exhibiting fuchsias of the Chelsea Flower Show this year. More than 100 varieties will be on display in hanging baskets, half standards, full standards, pyramids, fans and tubs. There are also four very big *Fuchsia microphylla* on plinths specially made to show them to their best advantage.

Make a point of seeing the varieties Autumnale with its red foliage, Wave of Life (yellow foliage), Golden Treasure (red and yellow foliage), Sanray, whose leaves are tinged pink, and *magellanica variegata*, whose leaves have a regular white margin to them.

An exhibit always worth inspection is that of Notcutts Nursery, Woodbridge, Suffolk, who once again are to show the wall plants that have become a feature of their stand. Almost every climbing plant in everyday use can be seen. Tender as well as hardy plants are exhibited with recommendations as to which wall they would best fit. This year they are to show the *Yakushimannu* hybrids, a new range of rhododendrons which, I predict, will be an outstanding success. Laid out as they are with other ericeaceous plants, they should offer many ideas.

Green house-plants, set off by colourful plants, will be the centre piece of the Belgian show, one of many international stands. They will include specimens of the weeping fig *Ficus benjamina* and the indiarubber plant *Ficus elastica*. The very large-leaved *Ficus bengalensis* will dominate the exhibit. The Belgians, who are plant experts, believe the green plant will take over as the most popular indoor seller.

A walk around Hilliers of Winchester's stand will offer a view of almost every plant there is in the woody range. Rhododendrons and azaleas will provide most of the colour, but the yellow foliage of such plants as *Robinia frisia* is as good as any flower.

Bressingham Gardens, of Diss, Norfolk, will exhibit dwarf and slow-growing conifers. Their stand is always distinctive because of its colour and form, expertly used. It also invariably features new and

interesting plants - but take your notebook as some of the names are tongue-twisters.

Roses in bloom will be at Chelsea in great numbers. There are always one or two new varieties making their debut. One that has taken my eye is Beautiful Britain, a cross from Red Planet and Eurorose. It has orange-scarlet petals and has been selected as the rose of the year. A rival, however, will be the rose, so far unnamed, which won the president's international trophy of the Royal National Rose Society last year. It is displayed by Mattocks.

There is keen competition among designers for commissions to lay out the various gardens. Most of them are sponsored and are built to embody a theme. The interest they arouse can readily be gauged by observing the animated discussions they provoke among the visitors. *The Sunday Times* this year is to feature a perspective garden by Roger

Turner, while Paul Temple will be exhibiting one with a Japanese influence; its aim is to reflect peace and tranquillity - no mean feat so near the traffic on the Thames Embankment.

The concentration in one area of gardening sundries enables the show to be of considerable help to the public, who can compare qualities and prices of goods offered by the main suppliers. Representatives of fertilizer manufacturers, for example, will be on hand to answer questions.

Chelsea also makes easier the difficult task of selecting a greenhouse from the many and varied types available. Talking to salesmen on the stands about the relative merits of wood or alloy can help to decide which is the more suitable for specific purposes or sites. On view, too, will be Europa's new lean-to greenhouse, the Viscount, three sizes of which are sold in kit form.

Finally, let me add a word about a stand which always beckons me - the Fison's exhibit of greenhouse fruits and vegetables: tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, melons, aubergines, marrows and pumpkins. Superbly grown, the plants are in full fruit and ripe, and there are to be 82 varieties this year. Whatever the weather, they will be a joy to behold.

Ashley Stephenson

The Chelsea Flower Show

OPENING TIMES: May 24, Royal Horticultural Society members. First public day is May 25. Open 8am-5pm, all-day admission £7.50; then May 26, 8am-5pm, admission £6.50; and May 27, 8am-5pm, admission £4.50. Children under five not admitted. Royal Chelsea Hospital, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3.

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN: Wednesdays and Sundays, 2-5pm, including bank holidays, until Oct 23, admission £1; plus special openings during the Chelsea Flower Show on May 24-27, 11am-5pm.

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NEXT WEEK: A special 12-page Saturday section on what to do over the bank holiday

John Higgins finds Mauritius captivating but extinction threatens its stock of rare birds

Dodo island is still vibrant with life

"The Docks" . . . "To the North." From the familiar signs at the end of the dual carriageway, black on white with light blue border, it could have been Dover, Southampton - any Channel port. But it was Port Louis, capital of Mauritius, where for the past 170 years the administration has been in English and the conversation in Creole or French. To the west is Madagascar, some 500 miles away, and to the east there is nothing but the Indian Ocean until you reach Perth.

Port Louis, mountains covered to green rising high above it, must look a good deal better from the sea than it does on foot. And it was from the sea and the approach to Port Louis's harbour that visitors as diverse as Charles Darwin, Joseph Conrad and Sir John Pope-Hennessy, the most distinguished of the island's Governor-Generals, got their first view of Mauritius.

Almost no western tourists now give Port Louis more than the courtesy of a half-day tour to pay their respects to the stuffed dodo in the museum behind the esplanade running up from the harbour, and perhaps, if they have a smattering of ornithological knowledge, a similar obsession to the

equally extinct *solitaire* bird from the neighbouring dependency of Rodrigues. They will have landed at the airport of Plaisance on the opposite corner of the island and dispersed to their beach hotels.

No one stays in Port Louis any more, although Mauritius's first hotel, The National, is still standing, a fine building in colonial style and possible for lunch. The Opera House, too, remains in existence, strictly amateur nowadays - Pavarotti has yet to cancel an engagement there.

In the middle of the Chinese quarter is the main mosque, cool and airy with a cobbler and ancient mango tree within, incongruous perhaps until it is remembered that the Chinese, who came to Mauritius as pirates and stayed on as gamblers and bookmakers, have taken over large chunks of Port Louis. They are much in evidence in the market by the harbour, where the fruit, vegetable and clothing area is mercifully separated from the meat department and the abattoir across the road.

Whether looking for kafans or culets, it is as well to keep a firm hand on your bank-roll in the hustle: it is always crowded.

Close by the market is a long road given over to human ailments; doctor's surgeries and chemists alternate on one side of the street while general stores are confined to the other. A reminder, possibly, of the malaria which once attacked the town.

Early on in the British rule, it was reckoned that Port Louis was no place for passing cool judgment and the Governor's Residence was accordingly established at Le Réduit, on the far side of the ring of mountains which arches around the town. Visitors and supplicants, as well as official papers, were brought by a single-track railway which oow, alas, is no more. Few colonial governors have so fine a house and estate: a long line of camohor trees leads to the front door, while behind, the gardens stretch away to a pinnacle with an observation post over the confluence of two rivers whose valleys are inhabited by tribes of monkeys and the white flash of the paille en queue, or Indian Ocean tropic-bird; beyond is the Indian Ocean proper. Gardens and public rooms can be visited on working days under escort.

Close by is the upper-class residential area of Moka, where the sugar barons, the real sugar daddies, have their houses; so

too did the late Shah of Iran, although his property, fenced off and abandoned, carries all the sadness of his dynasty.

Ten miles down the road - yes, Mauritius measures in miles - is Curepipe, where much of the commercial life of the island goes on. Shopping is a good deal more comfortable in this mountain climate than it is in Port Louis, but also a shade more expensive. Those who reckon they have spent sufficient rupees (about Rs15 to £1) can go for a free look at the Trou aux Cerfs, an immense crater at the edge of town and a physical reminder of the volcanic past.

Quantities of tourists to Mauritius will probably never make the road to Le Réduit and Curepipe. They may well be content with their beach hotel and perhaps the sight of a mongoose skittering across the road through the fields of sugar



Rare birds: Mauritian kestrel; echo parakeet; the extinct hooded dodo; and pink pigeon (courtesy of Central TV, World Wildlife Fund, BBC Italian picture library, Ardea)

cane which form a skirt around almost the whole island. Mongoose . . . Kipling . . . Rikki-Tikki-Tavi . . . nice furry creature that kills snakes? Well, not nice according to the zoologists and ornithologists who have been trying to rescue some of the fast disappearing wildlife of the island. To them the mongoose is probably the most destructive of many destructive animals introduced to Mauritius.

It has certainly been partly responsible for the virtual disappearance of the pink pigeon, a pretty, fluffy and over-friendly bird with a predilection for certain types of seeds in midsummer which have much the same effect on it as powerful hash has on humankind. While the pink pigeon is on cloud nine the mongoose comes up and eats its eggs. Three of the 10 rarest birds in the world are found on Mauritius, with the echo parakeet and the Mauritian kestrel joining the pink pigeon. In Europe an endangered species is likely to be outnumbered in thousands; here it is numbered in tens. Two men are striving to preserve them.

Philippe Mado, a Franco-Mauritian, is in charge of an extremely well-run bird park at Casela, near the small settlement of Bambous, and Carl Jones, an enthusiastic Welshman, has an aviary cum-breeding centre sponsored by the Mauritian Government, tucked away behind a yacht club on the west coast.

Jones, who arrived with what he describes as "a human-fixed peregrine falcon", has had considerable success with breeding the pink pigeon; so much so that a colony are going to be released in the Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses near Port Louis later this year. Equal rewards are coming from the Mauritian kestrel, in the course of a morning I spent with Jones and a cagoule of tropical bars (fast disappearing in Rodrigues) two kestrel chicks emerged from their shells, putting the known world population up from 14 to 16, at least for the time being.

If by any chance you were to see a kestrel or a pink pigeon



out of captivity it would be somewhere off the road which winds from the coast up to Charanel and Plaine Champagne. The sights though are far more likely to be the mass of La Morne Brabant, a mountain sticking out like a thumb into the ocean, a tribe of monkeys rushing across the road, or a pair of pailles en queue diving into the gorges below.

The hotels will more probably support the cardinal bird, the bulbul and, inevitably the mynah, which is tame enough to dig its beak into the breakfast buffet bowl when you are not looking.

By far the best of the hotels I visited was the St Geran on the east coast, South African-owned, English-managed and with an English chef who trained at Le Moulin de Mougins in the Alpes-Maritimes - the Moulin gets 19 toques in this year's Gault Millau guide and it shows in Barry Andrew's cooking at the St Geran. The Méridien, which lies at the foot of Le Morne Brabant, created a good impression. The expensive and luxurious Tousserok, which has its own island, the Ile aux Cerfs, was less welcoming, but it happened to be in the middle of a take-over bid while I was there and has now been acquired by Southern Sun, owners of the St Geran. In a lower price bracket, consider the Pirogue (west coast) or the Trou aux Biches (north-west).

Mauritius is blessed with fertile soil and the fruit and vegetables are way, way above

the quality normally encountered in tropical islands.

Stick to rum-based cocktails (Green Island is the best of the local rums) at Rs25-35 in the hotels, which is cheaper than in those Happy Hour bars springing up in south London. A bottle of Green Island in a store is about Rs47. Wine is dear and mainly South African, whisky prohibitive, but Gilbey's gin is made under licence and so is Kronenbourg beer.

Restaurants - and there are quite a few scattered around the coast - have modest prices, and are sure to try the *camaron*, a type of *écrevisse* which gets its sweet taste from the water swishing around the sugar cane.

Every other bar seems to be called The Paul et Virginie after Bernardin de St Pierre's novel, which all the hotel bookstalls carry. Actually, it re-reads very well despite the ineffable goodness of almost all the characters; and St Pierre was scrupulous about his topography, as anyone driving around the island will find out. But don't hire a car, which is expensive; instead, take a taxi at Rs300-400 a day.

The cynics point out that the most important event in Mauritian history, the death of Virginie, never happened and that the national bird, the dodo, is extinct. And no one has ever forgotten that Queen Victoria addressed one of her letters to "Mauritius, British West Indies". But non-cynics will find it one of the most fascinating islands in the Indian Ocean with far more to offer than mere snorkelling and coral strands.

Travel notes

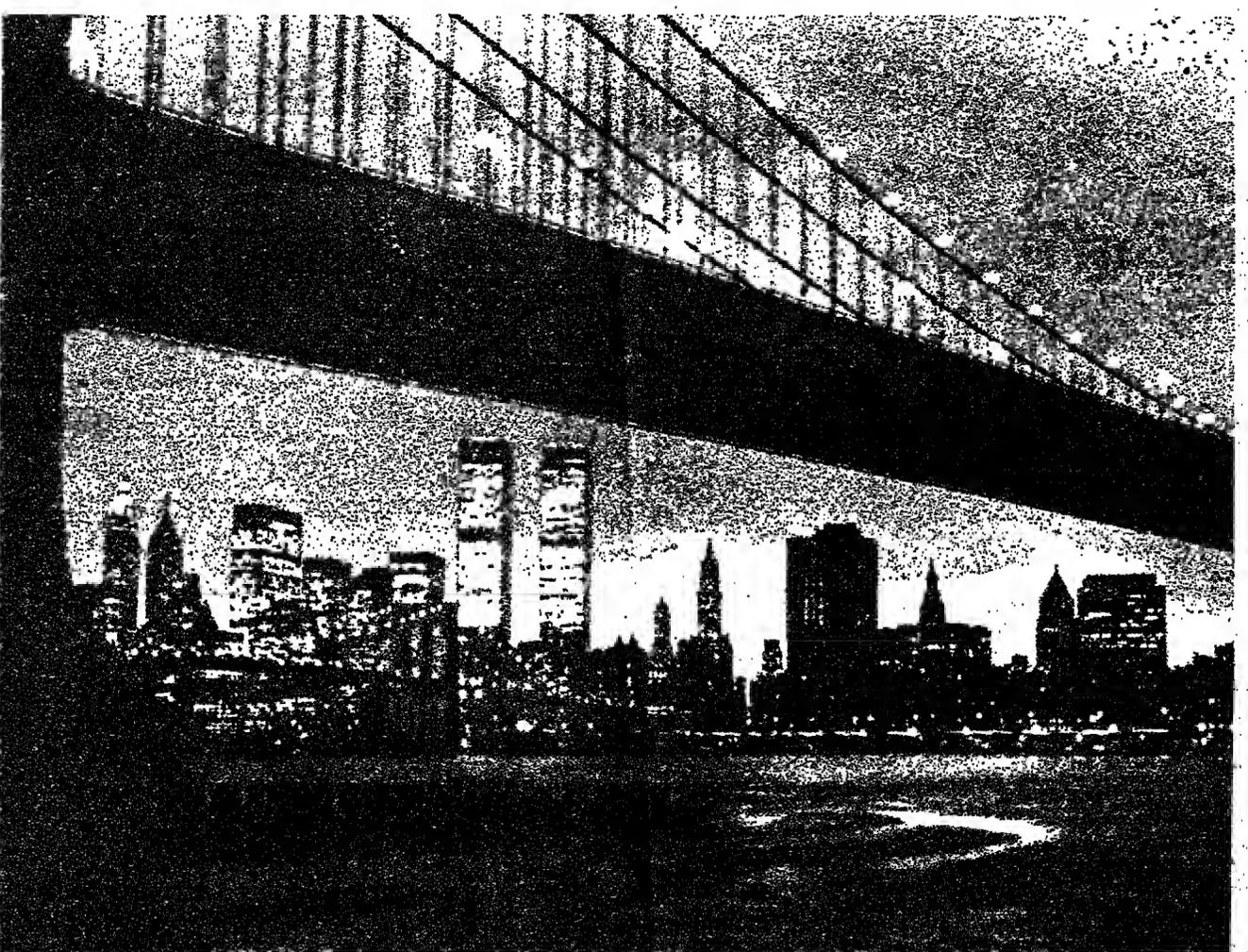
British Airways fly to Mauritius via Dur-es-Salaam each Tuesday afternoon. Abercrombie and Kent offer 14 days at the St Geran, half board, at £1,261 per person, flight and transfers included. The Tousserok is about £100 cheaper. Speedbird have La Pirogue, 14 days half board at £900.

Reading: Joseph Conrad: "A Smile of Fortune" in *Twixt Land and Sea*, a novella with more than a touch of *Rigoletto* in it, set in an unnamed island.

Gerald Durrell: *Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons*, racy, lively and exaggerated account of wildlife on Mauritius and Rodrigues (Fontana, £1.50).

James Pope-Hennessy: *Verandah*, final chapter on his grandfather's administration of the island (Allen and Unwin, 1964).

Carol Wright: *Mauritius*, solid and workmanlike as most of the books in the Islands series, but now needs updating (David and Charles, £4.95).



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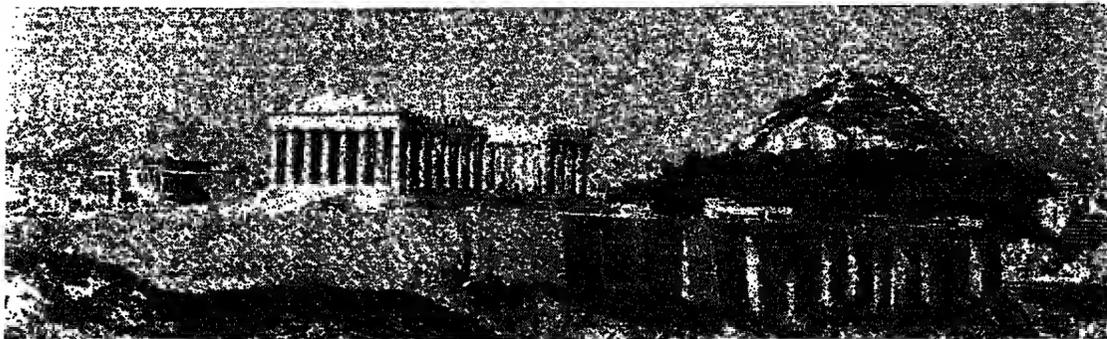
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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

U.K. HOLIDAYS

Athens, lovable new city of classic ruins



Before you go to Greece for the first time, read, at the very least, Book II of Thucydides's The Peloponnesian War. Everything will make much more sense if you do. Buy the best guide-book you can find.

The "golden age" of Athens refers to the time when Pericles, statesman and general, ruled the city and its allies (461-429 BC). He took the money contributed by the Confederacy of Delos and intended for the reconstruction of the Athenian fleet, and used it to rebuild Athens to the glory of Athena Parthenos, the virgin goddess.

My advice is to get to the Acropolis as soon as the gates open. Once inside use your eyes. Photograph if you must, but look for all you are worth. You may wonder why the Parthenon looks so perfectly right, so squarely and firmly placed. The curious thing is that it is not square, nor are any of its apparently vertical lines truly vertical.

A word of warning here. Museums close on one day a week and whole sites on some national holidays. I have found the tour companies, perhaps not unnaturally, somewhat reticent about over-advertising this. There are sightseeing tours of Athens itself that help with the topography. If you go out of the city, many of the tours take the best part of 12 hours.

Dramatic, but the mask is now thought to pre-date Agamemnon by at least 300 years. A visit to the National Archaeological Museum follows naturally on your day at Mycenae, and the unbelievable treasure found by Schliemann will then have a greater impact. There is, however, a great deal more to see in this splendid museum.

After the War of Independence, Otho, a Bavarian prince, was elected King, and many of the architects of the first official buildings were either Bavarians or Danes. Apart from the Acropolis and the surrounding ruins, Athens is a modern city.

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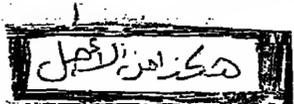
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Overseas Travel also appears on preceding pages

Summer in Switzerland

Advertisement Feature

Timely attraction of Swiss travel

IN 1883 Mr Thomas Cook, "the excursionist" gathered a flock of 84 ladies and gentlemen for the first ever organized trip of Switzerland and the packaged deal was born. With cheap tickets to the Mont Blanc it cost a total of £19-17-8 and lasted 21 days. By our standards it sounds more like an endurance test, guests having to rise at sunset to make an early start, riding in uncomfortable coaches on rough and bumpy roads. But then the Victorian traveller in Switzerland must have been extremely tough; not only has to look at photographs of ladies crossing glaciers in a crinoline to marvel at their courage. The conquest of the Matterhorn two years later was another momentous event to captivate the world. A group of eight British climbers led by Edward Whymper, starting from Zermatt, beat their Italian rivals in a race to the top. But the joy of victory was short-lived. On the way down a rope snapped, precipitating four of the members to their death. There was a lengthy controversy about the rope which still persists today.

By the turn of the century, Swiss holidays were all the rage, with ambitious hotels, vast Edwardian palaces on the lakes and in the Alps. Fashionable society held court among the rocks. Sir Edward Cassel, the millionaire banker, built his own baronial hall on the edge of the Aletsch Glacier, where with a staff of 12 he entertained the rich. Everything guests included - had to be brought up by mule from Märel, 4,000 ft below. The Villa Cassel is now Switzerland's first educational centre where people can attend five day courses on alpine flora, geology, forestry and game. Swiss hotel pioneers set a new high standard of hotel keeping that has never been surpassed. One was, Cesar Fitz, whose name became a synonym for quality and perfection although he was fired from his first job as a waiter at the Hotel Couronne at Post in Brigau, being told that to succeed in business one needed flair.

Alexander Sella at the Hotel Monte Rosa in Zermatt used the conquest of the Matterhorn to promote his unknown village and put it on the map. The rise of St Moritz was another lucky chance, a backward hamlet when Johannes Bädrucci in 1866 made his famous bet inviting guests to spend the winter there; if the sky was overcast he would refund their fare. A perfect winter of course and the scene for St Moritz was set. Today his descendants still run the Palace, which dominates the town. With its glittering social life it is an oasis of wealth. But things are not the same, the Swiss have become more democratic and much less stuffy.

With the opening of the new Fribourg-Turin level last year it is now possible to take the Glacier Express between Zermatt and St

Moritz on every day of the year. Switzerland is a kaleidoscope of awe-inspiring views and monuments of its past. Not always as peaceful as believed, the Swiss first defeated the Habsburgs and then in 1476 the Burgundians overcame Duke Charles the Bold. A boat trip linking the lakes of Murten, Neuchâtel and Bienna, without a change of ship, takes one to these sites.

Blot/Bienne is officially bi-lingual in German and in French. Jean-Jacques Rousseau loved the lake, finding refuge on the Isle of St Pierre which he never wanted to leave. The atmosphere is quite extraordinary, romantic and serene.

Switzerland is so varied, spots like St Saphorin, lapped by the Lac Lemán, the sky and water merged in celestial blue. The Valley of Bregaglia is a paradise apart, with the Romans and the Palazzo de Salis, a Renaissance castle with all the original furniture which is now a splendid hotel.

Berna, the capital, is dazzling with eye-catching fountains of medieval knights, banked high with flowers.

Schaffhausen on the Rhine - frequently thought to be German - is a stags set with its resplendent oriel windows and colourful facades.

Basle which spans a history of 2,000 years beginning with the Romans, has an unusual quality to which artists and thinkers like Erasmus of Rotterdam were instinctively drawn. The Kunst Museum, housed in a modern building, was the first museum, opened in 1862, but already then it incorporated an earlier collection which Hans Holbein the Younger had helped to select.

For a travel trade view I contacted Barrie Brown of Swiss Travel Service, Ware, Hertfordshire, specialists of Switzerland. Mr Barrie, whose firm recently topped the poll in a survey of Package Deal Operators undertaken by Which? Magazine, said: "Holiday bookings to Switzerland show a 40 per cent increase, with the Bernese Oberland still as the favourite holiday centre. Average one week price now across all seasons is under £250 and includes accommodation in good class hotel, half board, scheduled return flight, transfer in Switzerland and Swiss holiday ticket entitling one to a 50 per cent reduction on the Swiss transport network".

Swiss Travel Service offer a choice of 23 resorts and 90 hotels. Switzerland has now introduced the new Airbus A 310 on the London-Zürich route to be followed by London-Geneva in June. It means that holiday makers can travel to Switzerland in the comfort of a wide-body jet. One can also combine holidays with a special language course, a list of which is obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London, W.1. Francis Goodman

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VALUES

From vintage cars to antique lace, here comes Beryl Downing with the successful formula for a perfect wedding day

Complete guide for a busy June bride

June, moon, spoon may still be the recipe for the perfect romance, but you need a good many more practical ingredients to manage the actual wedding. Marriages are increasing at the rate of about 1,000 a year, so on the basis of the latest (1980) figures - 370,822 weddings in England and Wales - mothers of 1983 brides may have quite a bit of competition for caterers, florists, cars and photographers. Here are some suggestions to help plan the perfect day.

Flowers

Caroline Evans, Unit C, 48 Atlanta Street, London SW6 3BT (071 5484)
As a change from conventional arrangements, flower trees make delightful wedding decorations and are one of the specialties here. A bay-shaped tree 5ft high with a spread of 3ft-4ft costs about £20. Composed of daisies and ribbons, it looks delightful; or you can choose flowers to match your own theme. Caroline Evans likes to visit the venue with the bride to discuss colours. Bouquets are from £21, pedestal arrangements from £50. She also does wedding arrangements and bouquets entirely in silk. Several flower artists provide permanent mementoes of the wedding day by turning flowers from the bouquet into framed pictures. Usually they send special containers before the wedding day so that the bouquet can remain as fresh as possible and brides can choose to have the whole bouquet pressed and reassembled in the original shape, or selected flowers made into an original picture. Ask for brochures showing frames and styles.

Frames and Flowers, 11 Greenbank Drive, Bollington, Cheshire (0625 72815)
Pictures made from bouquets cost from £27.50. This studio also specializes in dried flower pictures in tones of gold and silver for wedding anniversaries or in any colours of the client's choice. Prices from £15.

Anna Howland, 30 Bridle Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (0628 27553)
Anna began to make flower pictures from other people's flowers because her husband Anthony, a keen gardener, couldn't bear her to pick his flowers for the house. He now grows rare varieties of foliage for her to use in her pictures and also does the framing for her - a happy compromise. Prices are from £8 for miniatures to £150 in glazed Italian frames.

Yvonne Saunders, 70 New Street, Great Bowden, Essex (0371 39986)
Yvonne offers a particularly romantic touch by mounting her flower pictures on fabric left over from the bride's dress. Plain silk or velvet mounts are also available in a variety of colours. Prices from £20.

Foye Forge, Fowey, Cornwall (072 683 2248 or 072 681 2378)
A single bloom from the bride's bouquet can also be preserved by placing it with gold, silver or copper. The flower, its stem wrapped in the moist cotton wool, must be packed in a strong carton and posted first class to arrive fresh; the service takes about four weeks. Prices are from £17.25 in gold plate for, say, a freesia; £14.95 in silver, £11.50 in copper. When they switched from blacksmithing to plating 20 years ago Foye Forge were the first to plate leaves and acorns as jewelry; they also plate babies' first shoes, from £12.50.

Cakes

Anne Fayer Cakes and Flowers, 66 Longe Piazza Street, London SW1 (730 8277)
Hand-painted wedding cakes with co-ordinating flower schemes are the specialty here, although Anne Fayer will also design and make totally unconventional cakes - one interior designer had a two-tier cake shape and when the pale green bride and bride had, had it silvered with pink casters. Single tiers cost from £25, three-tier from £25 and they can be supplied within two to four weeks as there is always a stock of rich, brandy-soaked cakes (which need at least six weeks to mature). Bouquets are from £45, bridesmaids' posies from £20, church arrangements from £40.

Cars and carriages

Getting Married, 201 Welworth Road, London SE17 (701 1750)

An open landau or a Victorian glass coach drawn by a pair of bays or greys and accompanied by two attendants in livery are available for weddings anywhere in the country. The equipage and horses travel from the stables by lorry and set up near the bride's home to take her to the church and reception. The basic cost is about £250 - more for long distances. Also on offer, a complete service, including photography, catering, flowers, wedding dresses - all done by the firm, not outside contractors.

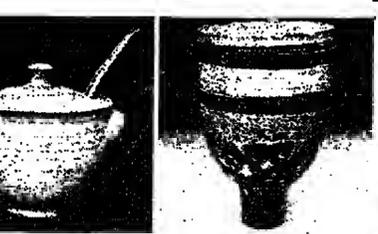
Stratford Motor Museum, 1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (0789 88413)

"One of the most valuable Rolls-Royces in the world" is available during the summer months only (so that the pristine condition will be maintained). It is a Phantom II built specially for the Maharaja of Rajkot in 1934 and has his crest on both doors and windows. Restored in the original saffron colour, the car has a drop-hood and 11 forward facing lights - some were originally manipulated by servants from the running board during night-time dinner parties. It costs £700 to hire, plus £1 per mile plus VAT - an extra £100 and mileage for a whole day's use.

The Wedding Bureau, 214 Evelyn Street, Deptford, London SE8 (682 7038)

Vintage Rolls-Royces in white, colours and two-tone from about 1916. They also have two horse-drawn carriages, a Victoria and an open landau (both convertible in case of rain) with matched pairs of horses to pull them. Vintage cars are £224.25, carriages £241.50, in and around London, and they will go as far as the south coast. At least six weeks' notice needed for carriages in the summer.

Wedding Services, 16 DeFaham Gardens, London NW3 (734 8244)
Harry Greenberg will not only

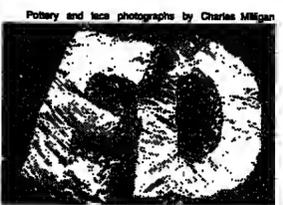


For couples who enjoy handmade pottery, try J. K. Hill, 151 Fulham Road, London SW3, where Janet Hill and Stuart Mansell have a good selection at very realistic prices.

There are practical pots in the usual earthy colours (handmade mugs at £2.15 outshine mass produced ones any day) and many are made by very well-known names. Ammanuel Cooper, for instance, designed the stoneware soup tureen, (above left, £17.55) and ladle, (£6.65) and David Leach's fluted celadon jugs are available from £11.50.

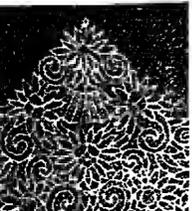
The shop also holds regular exhibitions. From next Tuesday until June 10 there will be a show of work by Robin Welch, whose colourful, many-fired pots have a very tactile appeal. His raku bowl (right) is £28.

Initiated wedding cushions tied together with a lover's knot, by Jane Barnden, in cream satin, cost £28 including p & p. Other initiated cushions in cotton are from £17.50 each. Details from The Julian Workshop, 1 Cheap Street, Sherborne, Dorset (0935 815473)

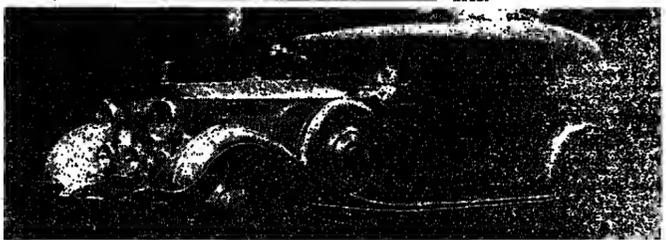


Pottery and lace photographs by Charles Milligan

Super luxury at bedtime



Luxurious bedfellow is a traditional wedding present. Beautiful designs are available at the new branch of And So To Bed at 7a New Kings Road, London SW3. Silk and linen sheet sets from Italy cost £295, handsome presentation chests of sheets and matching quilts from £165. British-made items include charming satin or linen make-up bags, breakfast sets and tidy rolls, by Jane Guy, from £6.90. Of the selection of antique and modern lace bedspreads by The Lace Lady, I particularly liked two spreads - a fragile Edwardian one with cutwork delicately embroidered in pale pink satin stitch and the modern, crunchy lace illustrated, which would stand up to constant laundering. Each costs £115.



Stylish carriage: The Rolls-Royce Phantom II built for the Maharaja of Rajkot

BIPP will send a list of member photographers in your area.

Accessories and beauty

Alison Combe, Unit 11, Clerkenwell Workshops, 31 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 (251 3864)
A specialist in headresses and hair ornaments, Alison Combe makes regular collections for top stores here, in Houston and in Paris, and will design a unique bridal headress to complement the dress. From £25 for a hair ornament for an informal wedding to £100 for an elaborate confection.

Happy The Bride, 319 Hale Road, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire (061 980 6014)
Sarah Dunning's shop specializes in unusual and exclusive wedding dresses in silk and antique lace, £150 to £350. She will also provide anything and everything for the wedding day - including extra large white umbrellas if it looks like rain. She will arrange the reception, photography, cake and has real rose petal confetti at 90p plus 20p p & p.

Liberty Regent Street, London W1 (734 1234)
The wedding dress department will repair and refresh family heirlooms from £10 and will mount antique lace ones on tiaras from £20. The military department adjoining makes hats to match guests' outfits from £39.50 plus the cost of fabric.

Wm. H. Bennett & Sons, 79 Piccadilly, Manchester. (061 236 3551)

For those making their own wedding dresses, this company has one of the largest selections of competitively priced silks. There are 13 shades of Macclesfield silk at £4.50 per metre, 26 shades of crepe de chine £5.50, 53 shades of habutai £2.50, 19 shades spun silk £3.75. All sorts of prints, too. Minimum order three metres.

Mellfroys, 26 College Green, Bristol (0272 23811)

This specialist dress fabric shop has a bridal department which operates a mail order service on a wide variety of bridal fabrics. Bridesmaids' poly/cotton prints for summer from £1.95 a metre, acetate satin £2.99, or embroidered tulles at £30. Send 50p and details of the colours and types of fabric that interest you; they will send sample swatches.

Joan Price's Face Place, 33 Cadogan Street, London SW3 (589 5082) and 31 Connaught Street, W2 (723 6671)

Brides - and their mothers - can learn how to create a natural and lasting make-up with exactly the right colours for their complexions. Once you have had a lesson (£7.95) you can also call on the Face Place for professional help with your make-up on the day itself (£12 an hour plus fares, central London only) but Joan Price will not do

wedding-day make-up on someone she has never seen before.

Hall, equipment

Searcy Tansley, 136 Brompton Road, London SW3 (584 3344)
Number 30 Pavilion Road, London SW3 is a Georgian-style house carefully renovated to maintain a private atmosphere, yet with facilities for efficient, large-scale catering. There is a library and bathroom which will accommodate 400 for a buffet, catered by Searcy Tansley. Hiring fee is £200, catering from £4.50 to £9 per head.

Various specialist hire companies throughout the country will provide all the tableware, trestle tables, chairs, and linen you need if you are doing your own catering. Among them are Embess (Hire) Ltd., 129-131 Stratford Road, Sparbrook, Birmingham (021 772 7031), HSS Catering Hire Service, Brownlow Road, London W13 (567 4124) and branches in Birmingham (021-934 6012) (also Silk & Notia) (061 231 1408).

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Great get-away: creaseless clothes that will still be immaculate at the honeymoon destination. Her black and white polyester pleated skirt and top by Gaston Lammot, £101.25, sizes 10 to 14; white Modal linen-look blazer by Pat Shaw, £77; sizes 10 to 16; black hat with white flower trim by Walmar, £28; cotton gloves by Cornelia

James £10.95; black leather handbag by Soxy Smith £39.95. His Italian navy trousers, £36; striped blue and white seersucker jacket £25 (also in five other colours, sizes 36in to 46in chest) both by Slay, yellow seersucker tie, £4.95. Harrier three-suitcase case, by Antler, £74. All at Harrods

provide vintage Rolls-Royces for weddings anywhere in the country, but will also arrange photography, flowers and discotheque. For central London he charges an inclusive fee of £95 for the vintage cars, £75 for Silver Shadows and Silver Clouds in white or colour; ceremonies further than 15 to 20 miles will have an additional mileage charge and for really long distances the basic charge is waived and fees are based on a £10 an hour and 90p per mile hire charge. Photography costs about £3.75 per colour print plus £20 for a leather album. Discos £80 for four hours. A flexible, willing-to-tackle anything service.

White Lady Weddings, 1 Drexelstead Road, Streatham, London SW16 (677 5432)

Early 1930s vintage Rolls in white, yellow and black or ivory and chocolate, £140, and Victoria and landau carriages with pairs of greys, whites or browns, £235. The cars are for central London only; the carriages are available within a 20-mile radius of the city centre.

Photography

The Directory of Portrait Photographers, published by Kodak, lists more than 2,000 professional photographers. This is not an assurance of quality, but each has a symbol denoting specialization in wedding photography or portraits, family, children and pets. Letters after their names indicate whether they are members of the Master Photographers Association or British Institute of Professional Photography, both of which specify standards. The directory is available, free, from Advertising Distribution, Kodak Limited, Victoria Road, Fulsip, Middlesex. The British Institute of Professional Photography, Anwell End, Ware, Hertfordshire (0620 4017) This is the association for photographers "seeking a qualification that means something", as the BIPP put it. Licentiates have to submit 10 examples of their current work and are assessed for competence by a judging panel. Associates are judged by an annual meeting of distinguished Fellows of the Institute who require a high degree of ability, presentation and content.

IN THE GARDEN

Clematis - a wall flower that sits it out all year

For anyone who wants to cover a trellis or wall, or to introduce some climbing colour into the garden, the clematis is one of the first plants to consider. This is a big family, containing a wide variety of types besides the large flowered forms most often seen in gardens.



Clematis macropetala

Clematis flower from spring through autumn, according to variety, so by careful selection it is possible to have something to see in the garden almost throughout the year. All varieties require a cool root run; some are more touchy than others, but as a matter of course, make sure the roots are not exposed to the heat of the sun for long periods. Although cool moist soil is ideal, the placing of a flagstone or even a planting of dwarf shrubs will go a long way towards sheltering the root system from heat. Container-grown plants are the usual way of buying clematis and these can be planted at almost any time. However, I prefer to plant at some time during the dormant season and get much the best results in September or April.

Make sure the plant is firmly planted; try to ensure that the top of the root ball is about half an inch lower in the soil than before. Regular pruning is necessary to prevent the plants from becoming too big and untidy, but different groups require different treatment. Jackmanii and Viticella types are best cut back hard; remove almost all the growth made the previous season. Florida and Lanuginosa are best pruned after flowering

by cutting back the flowering shoots close to the old wood. Varieties to look for are Ville de Lyon (V), which is a carmine red; Jackmanii (J), which has violet purple flowers and is very striking; and Madame le Courte (L), with white flowers. All are summer flowering. Species well worth trying include C. montana and montana rubens, both very vigorous and spring flowering, with white and rosy flowers respectively and C. tangutica, which flowers in September, when its yellow pendant blooms cover the plant - cut it hard back to a framework. C. arvensis has sweetly scented white flowers in April and needs a warm wall. C. macropetala: Marikams Pink has soft pink flowers in May, and needs no pruning; C. balcarica produces yellowish white flowers early in the year on a plant which is not over vigorous.

There are about 250 different forms of clematis so these are merely representative. Plants cost about £3 each.

Ashley Stephenson

Lemon scented verbena

Scent, something all gardeners strive for, is usually derived from flowers; but occasionally it is possible to get a strong scent from foliage. Aloysia citrodora is an example. It is not fully hardy and cuttings should be struck each year

to enable the plant to be retained. Plant at the foot of steps, close to the house door, or at the edge of a path, so you brush against the leaves as you walk and release the lemon scent. Little brushing of the leaves is needed, but for best results have the foliage trail across a path so you tread on the leaves as you pass.

This plant will do well in the garden during the summer but it is often killed by hard winters. Rich soil is not necessary; it often does better if it has to struggle in poor soils. Sometimes if the winter is not too hard, as last year, it will come through the winter and will make quite a large bush. The bigger the plant, the more easy brushing of the foliage becomes. Prune growths hard to the ground, as with fuchsias, each spring; this is the only attention required. Plants cost about £3 each.

Sweet scented: Mary Evans Plant Library

SPRING BONUS

FREE with every order: The KCM Polystyrene System Propagating Tray. Can be used for Plant Propagation or as a Windowill Growing Tray

SHOW FUCHSIA COLLECTIONS. Since 1955 we have specialised in Fuchsias. We have a large stock of individually cut pot-grown plants that are guaranteed to flower. Send double and fully double blooms are produced in profusion. A lowly priced but a very high quality prize winners selection. Ideal for the garden, greenhouse, conservatory, balcony or window sill. Some blooms are bigger than hens eggs, some are smaller. Quantity reductions see how you save. 5-£3.20; 10-£5.90; 20-£10.90; 40-£20.00.

DOUBLE GARDEN CARNATIONS. Proven since their introduction in 1964. Carnations. Easy to grow, ideal for the garden, greenhouse or conservatory. Excellent source of supply for cut flowers. Fabulous colours including shades of Blue, Pink, Crimson, Purple, Lavender and White, and exciting bicolors. These should be planted in the autumn. Remember this is a half price offer. The 1979 price was 10-£8.10.

PERPETUAL CHRYSANTHEMUMS. Grow exclusively for ourselves for the last 18 years. Proven for you. Ideal for the garden, greenhouse or conservatory. Flowered variety is sturdy hardy and will bloom from late Summer through the Autumn, even early Winter and then onwards from next Spring 1984. Yes this is a proven four season flowering plant. It will flower in the garden year after year. Some double, Crescent Centred flowers are produced in profusion. We hold photographs of all our plants. We hold photographs of all our plants. We hold photographs of all our plants. 10-£3.60; 20-£5.40; 50-£9.90; 100-£16.80.

THE MAJESTIC BLUE NILE LILY. From the land of the Pharaohs we offer our selection of Agapanthus - evergreen strap leaf plants which become surrounded by spikes of bloom up to 4ft tall. Colour! A stunning shade of Electric Blue! Ideal for tubs or ornamental garden. 2 for £3.95; 4 for £5.95. Request "order form" for all your plant and shrub requirements. (City appointed). Callers welcome open 7 days a week. OPEN ALL BANK HOLIDAY! Visit the coves and shrub permitting on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday our 10% "Gauge Railway" will be running. POST YOUR ORDER TO THIS ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY. CALLERS ALWAYS WELCOME. 117-119 CHIVINGTON ROAD, BUCKINGHAM, CHALLOCK, 28821, Nr. Ashford, Kent. 023374 258

REVIEW Video

Face-lift does not mar the old Savoy image

The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan (Videospace, 12 Cassettes, £29.95 each, except Cox and Box, and Trial by Jury, £19.95 each) The Yeoman of the Guard and HMS Pinafore (Precision Video, about £40 each).

The D'Oyly Carte company died because it tried to remain completely faithful to the original stagings of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas without performers good enough to make the works alive and exciting to new audiences. The recent stage revival of *The Pirates of Penzance* has shown that it is possible to produce a hugely entertaining show, close to the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan without slavishly following their every word, note and step.

Video ought to be able to provide a compromise between the dead Savoy and the vibrant but perhaps over-innovative New York extremes of interpretation. This series of 12 operas - recorded specially for the video - tries, largely successfully, to balance the conflicting demands of fidelity to the past and the need for a new spark.

The production budget for each opera was \$1m and a great deal of imaginative effort went into designing and building the sets, which allow the action to escape the constraints of the theatre stage. The orchestra is no less than the London Symphony.

But \$12m is a lot of money to recoup, and the series must therefore be acceptable to American audiences. The attempt to do this takes two forms: employing a sprinkling of "name" stars not normally associated with opera, let alone G & S, and getting Douglas Fairbanks Jr to introduce the works and provide brief half-time commentary. Mr Fairbanks is less than illuminating.

Casting for reasons of fame rather than proven talent for the rather peculiar demands of G & S has its risks, not least that of introducing an imbalance in works which rely crucially on an integrated equilibrium of per-

formance. When the gamble pays, however, the results can be marvellous. Vincent Price as the softy villain Sir Despard Murgatroyd in *Ruddigore* is a joy. Joel Grey (the master of ceremonies in the film *Cabaret*) is Jack Point in *The Yeoman of the Guard*, and William Conrad (the fat television detective Cannon) is the *Mikado*. Closer to home, Frankie Howerd appears in both *HMS Pinafore* (Sir Joseph Porter) and *Trial by Jury* (the learned judge) but is, perhaps, too idiosyncratic a comedian to slip easily into Savoyard mould. Keith Michell is in three of the operas (*Ruddigore*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Pirates of Penzance*) and does not come off in any. In particular, his modern major-general is a disappointment.

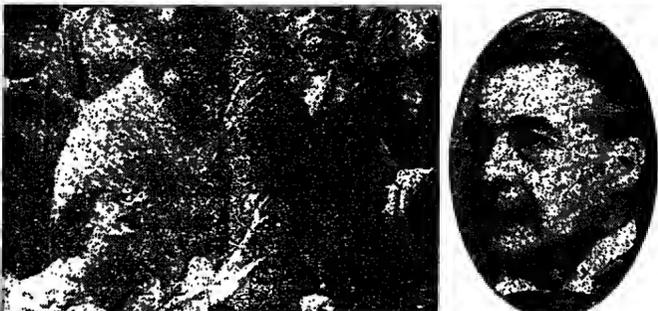
The directors of some of the operas have indulged in the camera tricks and other gimmicks. In *Iolanthe* the song sending Strephoo to Parliament is accompanied by a peschico owsreel film, in black and white, of Strephoo at the hustings in the 1920s.

It would have been helpful to have a resumé of the plot and a full cast list with each cassette. On the whole, though, the series is to be recommended. Action flows well, the camerawork is usually strong and the set pieces are wittily presented. Singing and acting are of a high standard and the ensemble playing is admirable.

Precision Video's *The Yeoman of the Guard* is an adaptation of the City of London Festival production, filmed at the Tower of London itself. The excellent cast is led by Tommy Steele as a moving Jack Point.

The same company has brought out *HMS Pinafore* by the D'Oyly Carte. With the benefit of so many of Gilbert and Sullivan's best known songs it can hardly go wrong, despite wooden staging and variable singing. It is spirited and predictable (which is what the purist desires) and no opportunity to harm is wasted.

Marcel Berlins



Casting for success: (Clockwise from top left) W.S. Gilbert, William Conrad (*The Mikado*), Sir Arthur Sullivan, Keith Michell (*The Pirates*), Frankie Howerd (*HMS Pinafore*)

Laissez faire holds back growth of laser disc

Whither Laser-Vision? It is a year since Philips launched the video disc system in Britain and the company is the first to admit that so far the response has fallen well below expectations. Optimism that this state of affairs will change in the next 12 months is based partly on making the system more attractive by expanding the range of programme titles and also the prospect that rising prices of cassette recorders will make disc players better value.

Certainly Laser-Vision, though technically impressive, needs some sort of special boost if it is to establish itself as a popular alternative to cassettes, which have had the crucial advantage of several years' start.

The main advantages claimed for Laser-Vision are the superior sound and picture quality of the discs over cassettes and the relative cheapness of the software. The discs cost £17 to £18 and although cassette prices have been coming down, many are still in the £40 to £50 bracket.

Furthermore, since the disc is "read" by a laser beam there is no surface contact and unlike a cassette it will not wear out. With the picture and sound sealed in a plastic coating, it is, in any case, more robust than a tape and almost impossible to damage.

Since Laser-Vision is still fairly new, there is every prospect that the prices of both discs and players will come down in real terms. At the moment, the standard disc player sells at £399, or about the same as a comparable video cassette recorder.

Laser-Vision was launched with only 50 programme titles; there are now 170 and Philips plans to have 300 to 400 in the catalogue by the end of the year. This will still be a small selection when set against the total of 4,000 titles available on video cassettes.

Philips maintains, however, that only 10 per cent of programmes account for the bulk of business and it is in these that the catalogue will concentrate. Already the repertoire includes a good selection of feature films, from *Kagemusha to The Sound of Music*, as well as popular music, sport and documentaries.

There are two types of disc: active play which lasts for 36 minutes per side and long play, which gives an hour each side and is mainly used for feature films. On the shorter discs it is possible to reverse, speed up or

slow the action and freeze the frame, but these facilities are not available on the long play variety.

A small irritant, compared with the cassette, is that the disc has to be stopped and turned over, like a gramophone record, once its playing time has finished and any film lasting more than two hours will spread over at least two discs.

The disc player, though larger and heavier than the standard VCR, is easy to use and the claims about sound and picture quality are justified. It is a firmer and sharper picture than is provided by a cassette, if not quite up to the standard of the best television reception; sound is also better, particularly if played through a stereo amplifier.

What Laser-Vision cannot do is to record and this must be one of the strongest arguments against it. In one survey, 70 per cent of people said their main reason for acquiring a video was to record television programmes and if this is generally true a disc system would appear to have limited appeal.

It will be interesting to see whether Philips can prove otherwise.

Peter Waymark

Action replay of films that missed

Now and again video provides the opportunity to see films of interest that barely surfaced in the cinema and one such is Brian de Palma's first feature, *The Wedding Party*. Made in the 1960s while he was still at college, it is being issued by VPD.

De Palma has established himself as a director of stylish horror, with films like *Dressed to Kill*, *Carrie* and another title coming out in video this month, *Sisters* (Polygram). *The Wedding Party* is, by contrast, a zany comedy, boasting early screen appearances by Jill Clayburgh and Robert de Niro, it shows a young film maker exhilarated by his medium.

Joining the Videoforum list is *The Last Tycoon*, a film of many talents (Kazan, Finster, de Niro, Mitchell) that was saved on its initial release in 1952 but may be ripe for

reassessment. A video viewing of Milos Forman's 1971 generation gap comedy, *Taking Off* (CIC), will be interesting in another sense, to establish whether the film is too rooted in its era to strike chords in the 1980s.

The new CBS/Fox video releases include John Boorman's science fiction fantasy from 1974, *Zardoz*, and Werner Herzog's 1977 version of the Dracula story, *Nosferatu the Vampyre*, with Klaus Kinski. Of more recent vintage is Mai Zetterling's uncompromising study of borstal girls, *Scrubbers* (Thorn EMI).

Now that Ingmar Bergman has - apparently - retired from film making his work can be judged as a whole, which makes video issues particularly valuable. There are two this month from Longman: *Summer with Monika*, made in 1952,

and *Scenes From a Marriage*. Thorn EMI is putting out the second part of the Andrzej Wajda trilogy, *Kanal*, with its sombre account of the Warsaw uprising. There is more popular fare in *The Sunshine Boys* (MGM/UA), the Neil Simon comedy about two old vaudeville artists played by Walter Matthau and George Burns; and one of the best of the Sergio Leone spaghetti Westerns, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, with Henry Fonda uncharacteristically curvy cast as a psychotic killer (CIC).

The CIC label also has a gem from 1964: Doo Siegel's film of the Hemingway story, *The Killers*, with Lee Marvin and Cla Gulgager icily effective in the name parts and the final film role of a man on his way to higher things - Ronald Reagan.

P.W.

PREVIEW Theatre

Earthy Tudor drama makes its London bow

About the time that Henry VIII was composing "Greensleeves" (if indeed he did) and Sir Thomas More was dashing off comedy sketches, Angelo Beolco, steward to a rich nobleman of Padua, started to write plays based on the peasant life he saw around him: the humour, the hardship, the richness of character, the richness of life.

Appearing himself in a regular character of a scurrilous gossip, he was nicknamed *Il Ruzante* ("the one who romps about"). This week four of his plays, seldom if ever seen in England, are at the Lyric Hammersmith in *The Comedy Without a Title*. The Ruzante show marks the return to the Lyric of shared experience under their director, the Allreds, and inaugurates their new special arrangement with the theatre. After eight years of touring, they now have

the Lyric as a home base where they will play three times a year (once in the Studio). Their brilliant adaptation of *A Handful of Dust* played there to full houses in November.

Despite Ruzante's intermittent excursions into high-flown parody, the predominant style is earthy, direct, often vulgar - the plays are written in Paduan

dialect - but with a vein of natural imagery that reminded Allreds of Irish speech. "It's a very fresh voice: it's as if you can hear him, over four and a half centuries, saying 'it's like that'. He deals in the great perennial topics: money, sex, survival. Particularly survival. The peasants endure plague, war, famine; but they go on."

The four chosen plays, which have some similarities of character and incident, have been condensed and welded together. In each play, Allreds explained, the situation gets together - so had that the only hope of final happiness has to be brought by a splendefrous angel appealing for faith. "The acting style is naive, much more

immediate than English people are used to - not easy to play. In England we're used to subtlety; we don't always say what we mean. These characters look at each other eye to eye."

Mike Allred's next production will be a similar "discovery job" at the Studio: *Les Femmes confuses* and *L'heureux stratagemme* by Moliere, opening up another corner of European theatre that has been largely ignored in Britain apart from pretty productions by the Comedie Francaise and, most recently, the astounding production of *Le diapas*, by Patrice Chereau, brought to the National Theatre in November 1976 by Roger Planchon's Theatre National Populaire at Lyons, which expanded the original, dark and disturbing one-act into a truly surreal experience.

Anthony Masters



John Price, Maggie Wells and (at rear) Sam Dale in the Lyric's 'discovery' play

Critics' choice

ANOTHER COUNTRY
Wynema (836 1166)
Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm and Sat at 5.15pm

sets won on the playing fields of London are at the opposite end of Julian Mitchell's portrait of an English public school as a breeding ground for traitors. A fascinating production by Stuart Burge with a cast including Daniel Day-Lewis and John Douglas.

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA
Cottesloe (828 2252)
Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, in repertory
Richard Eyre follows up his splendid production of *Gays and Cols* with a gaily revised John Gay's proto-musical. The vibrancy of the staging and a company led to rousing good effect by Paul Jones's Macneath are complemented by Dominic Maddoway's music.

CRYSTAL CLEAR
Wynema (836 3028)
Mon-Fri at 8.15pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 3pm
Intensely characterized and intensely moving account of a triangular relationship, showing how allegiances shift when one of the partners goes blind. Text and production by Phil Young and his three actors (Anthony Allen, Philomena McDonagh and Diana Barrett) rank as the greatest triumph for the collective method yet seen on the British stage.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE
Haymarket (930 9832)
Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm
Shaw's wry, poetic picture of "civilized" Europe pre-1914, lovingly brought to life in John Dexter's production. Diana Figg's Mrs Hushabye surpasses even her Eliza Doolittle, Rex Harrison makes a salty and whimsical Shover, and Rosemary Harris, Paxton Whitehead and Simon Watt make the comic scenes a real treat.

journalist, against the background of a Bombay conference on world poverty. A witty, eloquent and fully over-ingenious production, with a fine central partnership between Roshan Seth and Bill Nighy.

MR CINDERS
Festive (838 2235)
Mon-Fri at 8pm; Sat at 5.30pm and 8.45pm; matinee Thurs at 3pm
Packed with enchanting songs and boasting a witty performance by Denis Lawson of acrobatic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1925 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-tornis age. Modest staging (originally at the King's Head); but the production's speed and sparkle make it an intoxicating evening.

THE REAL THING
Strand (838 2680)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm
Highly uncharacteristic play by Tom Stoppard, starring Roger Rees as a successful playwright who discovers true love at the cost of his marbles, a fates the play shares with its protagonist.

SMALL CHANGE
Cottesloe (828 2252)
May 27 at 7.30pm. In repertory
Revival of Peter Gill's evocation of childhood in working-class Cardiff, assembled from numerous remembered details and dissolving the boundaries between past and present. An austere beautiful production with fine performances.

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100, Great Road, Hammersmith, W6 7JH
Tel: 834 3354
This new live work
YET ANOTHER BAD
TURN UP
24 and 25 May at 9.50pm.
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JOIN IN THE BEE IN THE BONNET CONTROVERSY

DO POLITICAL PARTIES DESERVE YOUR VOTE?

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The new pamphlet series where well known authors vent their anger at aspects of today's society.

Michael Moorcock **Paul Abelman**
The Retreat **The Doomed**
From Liberty **Rebellion** **£2.25**

Out of Town

DUBLIN: Abbey (001 744505). *Henket*. Mon-Sat at 8pm. Directed by Michael Bogdanov, with Stephen Brennan, Niall Toibin, Joan O'Hara, Desmond Perry. Staged in modern dress.

EDINBURGH: Royal Lyceum (031 228 9697/8/9). *Heartbreak House* by G. B. Shaw. Tues - Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinee June 4 at 4pm
Shaw's favourite play is set in a house on the brink of apocalyptic, populated by an assortment of odd characters. Directed by Peter Watson, with Richard Wordsworth as Captain Shotover. Starring by Hugh Whitmore. Mondays and June 8 - 11 at 8pm
Biography, autobiography and narration mingle in the famous study of poetess Stieve Smith, played here by Margot Gillies.

LIVERPOOL: Playhouse (051 709 8353). *Walking on Water* by Claire Luskham. Mon - Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm
The long-awaited new play by the author of *Trafalgar Tarts*, who now tells of a sponsored walk that ends in disaster. Directed by Bill Morrison.

LIVERPOOL: Everyman (051 709 4775). *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, adapted for the stage and directed by Roger Hill. Tues - Sat at 8pm; matinee Wed and June 8 at 2pm, June 11 at 2.30pm
Contemporary issues of child care and abuse are emphasized in Hill's adaptation. Two members of the Everyman Youth Theatre, Paul Williams and Lawrence Tierney, play Pip as a boy; Victor McGuire takes the adult role.

Today, May 23, 26, 27 at 7.30pm
Directed by John Caird, with Miles Anderson, Gemma Jones, John Thaw, Zohé Wanasaker, Daniel Massey and Emrys James
Julius Caesar. May 24 and 25 at 7.30pm; matinee today and May 26 at 1.30pm. Both plays continue in repertory.

Directed by Ron Daniels, with Joseph O'Connor, David Schofield, Gemma Jones, Emrys James, Peter McEnery.
STRATFORD: *The Other Place* (0789 295623). *The Time of Your Life* by William Saroyan. May 24, 25 at 7.30pm. In repertory
The first RSC production of Saroyan's gentle comedy of the Depression years, set in a waterfront bar in San Francisco. Directed by Howard Davies, with Daniel Massey, John Thaw, Zohé Wanasaker.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters

Drink Traditional British tippale that is ripe for revival

Guessing the correct identity of Brown Scout, Slack-in-girdle, Somerset Redstreak and Knotted Keruel would probably stump every *Masters* contestant. The answer is that they are all traditional cider apples. And while these old varieties together with the rough, raw, cloudy farmhouse ciders or scrumpy that every farmer's wife made from windfalls and damaged fruit, are rarely seen today, the cider industry is enjoying a renaissance.

Not only have cider sales doubled in the past decade, but last year cider outpaced up a hefty 20 per cent increase on the previous year - virtually the only area of the depressed drinks trade (apart from white wine) to show any increase at all.

This cider revival may well have followed in the wake of the Campaign for Real Ale, and the belief that returning to traditional English tipples is a good thing. But I suspect that shrewd cider drinkers have discovered that cider is not only slightly cheaper than beer but is also several degrees more alcoholic, making it the most alluring alternative to wine.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when cider was first fermented but the Celts had made exclusively from bitter-sweet apples, is Bulmers No 7, a magnificent extra dry still cider launched in the 1890s only a decade after this firm was founded.

No 7 is often referred to as a connoisseur's cider - a misleading phrase, for this gutsy amber-gold cider is full of apple flavour, and apart from this country ever since the first apple crop was gathered - and that was long before the Romans arrived, let alone the Normans.

Mind you, cider was always considered a rustic, homely brew until the Hundred Years War when French wine became scarce and the gentry had to fill their glasses with cider instead of wine. But it was not until the late nineteenth century that the wild yeasts that caused violent and unpredictable fermentations were isolated and fine ciders rather than scrumpy were widely available.

Today cider is made principally in the West Country, in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, as well as in Somerset and Devon, and to a lesser degree Norfolk and Kent, with the three major companies of Bulmers in Hereford, Taunton in Somerset and Coates Gwynnes based in Somerset and Norfolk, carving up most of the cider market between them. But scrumpy is still made on hundreds of different farms in every cider county and my schooldays in Kent were considerably cheered by legs of local scrumpy.

The finest ciders come from apples that are classed as bittersweet; high in tannin and low in acid, and prized for the traditional full flavour they impart. One of the finest and most traditional ciders I know, made exclusively from bitter-sweet apples, is Bulmers No 7, a magnificent extra dry still cider launched in the 1890s only a decade after this firm was founded.

No 7 is often referred to as a connoisseur's cider - a misleading phrase, for this gutsy amber-gold cider is full of apple flavour, and apart from this country ever since the first apple crop was gathered - and that was long before the Romans arrived, let alone the Normans.

pint nip retails at 50p and is available from off-licences.)

Another fine English cider, made from Cox's Orange Pippins and Bramleys, that has quite a following within the wine world, is wine merchant Robin Doo's delicious Elmham House still, medium dry vintage cider, made and bottled in Norfolk. The '81 is the vintage currently on sale and its pale straw colour plus a fresh apple character and an unusually high alcohol content for cider - around 8 degrees - means that this cider tastes curiously and remarkably just like an English wine but is, I am assured, made exclusively from apples.

Elmham House cider does apparently take on a much more pronounced cider character after a few or so of bottle age, but few of us I suspect will be able to resist pulling the cork on this elegantly liveried cider long before then. (The '81 is available direct from Hicks & Don, Park House, Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk, £1.58. Harrod's, Knightsbridge, London SW1, stock the '80 for £1.75.)

As France still produces more cider than we do it is only fair to mention one of their sparkling Normandy ciders that are a good foil to the still traditional English ciders. One of the best is La Cidraine, a naturally sparkling cider from the Cideries Réunies at Le Theil in Normandy, whose handsome golden-orange colour and fresh flowery apple fragrance and taste really is very good indeed. But make certain you buy the sweet and medium sweet versions are out as good. (Safeway, 55p; Arthur Rackham, £1.29; Cullens £1.29.)

Jane MacQuitty



Making 'scrumpy': A transportable cider press at Penford, Somerset, in 1934

دكان النجيل

PREVIEW Galleries

Critics' choice



Man in the street: Judges and messenger boy in tow near the Law Courts in the Strand, 1934

Talking pictures from a still camera

Felix Man, if not the father of modern photo-journalism, can certainly be considered one of its elder statesmen. He is 90 this year and to celebrate a career spanning more than 70 years the Victoria and Albert Museum is showing about 100 examples of his work (mostly pre-1945). Secker and Warburg is simultaneously publishing a lavishly illustrated autobiography.

Man took his first documentary photographs in the trenches of the Western Front in 1915 but did not become a professional until 1928, when he produced picture stories for German magazines.

Magazine demonstrated to the British public the potential and scope of picture stories about everyday things presented on the page with an imaginative flair that demanded attention. But Man's subject matter was never confined to the documentary. His interests ranged from portraiture to fashion and the theatre. His photographs of artists at ease in their studios (Sutherland, Braque, Hockney, Matisse) are among his finest.

He was fearless at choosing the precise moment to press the shutter. One of his most famous photographs, that of Mussolini in the vast auditorium he used for an office, was shot on impulse as Man entered the room and he knew immediately he had taken a picture that could not be improved upon.

THE EASTERN CARPET IN THE WESTERN WORLD Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (022 5144). Until July 10, Mon-Tues 10am-6pm, Fri-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun noon-6pm. Arts Council's big contribution to the oriental carpet summer which seems to be upon us is this display of carpets as they first burst upon the West when imported between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. In all, about 60 carpets demonstrate not only the riches and variety of the East, but also the strong influence such pieces exerted on Renaissance and Baroque art in Europe - and not only in western carpets, but also in other branches of art, where the decorative motifs and sumptuous colouring had considerable effect.

NOVA MULHER Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (038 4141). Until May 31, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. The Festival of Brazil begins with a two-part show giving an overall picture of the work of women artists in Brazil today and of Brazilian women artists based in Europe. An exhibition of works by 10 of the former and nine of the latter, covering a wide variety of media, is accompanied by another devoted to Rita Loureiro's colourful paintings "Interpretation of Macunaíma", in which the self-taught artist evokes scenes and images from the legend of the Brazilian folk-hero.

FERNANDO BOTERO Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (029 5161). Until June 3, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm. The Colombian-born painter and sculptor's rich selection of recent work in familiar style is the first extensive London showing for some years.

THE INSPIRATION OF EGYPT Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Street, Brighton BN273 6QD. Until July 17, Tue-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun 2-5pm. This year's summer exhibition in Brighton is all about Egypt - not the country itself so much as the reflections of it and its art in European culture over, principally, the past two centuries. From the first big wave of interest, occasioned by Napoleon's Egyptian campaign and its scholarly by-products through Tutankhamun fever to Elizabeth Taylor, the spell has been constant, if somewhat slack in its effects, and this show does not skimp on the bizarre as well as the beautiful.

ALVIN LANGDON COBURN: MAN OF MARK 1882-1956 Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051 222 5234). Until May 31, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, in 1930 Coburn gave his collection of photographs to the Royal Photographic Society before destroying 15,000 negatives; this exhibition is drawn from that archive.

WORK AND WIT Sude Gallery, 9 Side, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (022 2208). Until June 5, Tue-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat and Sun 11am-5pm. Since its opening in 1977 the Side Gallery has built up an impressive collection of documentary photographs by national and international names such as Bill Brandt, Robert Doisneau, Chris Kilip and Russell Lee. Ian Jeffrey,

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DAVID WARD John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122) until June 11 Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. David Ward is one of the most interesting portrait photographers in Britain. His subjects perform exclusively for his camera, mostly in the studio. The resulting images are theatrical and mannered and possessed of an artificiality which is almost surreal and which must owe something to Man Ray.

RECORD AND REVELATION Olympus Gallery, 24 Princes Street, London W1 (01 481 7591). Until May 17, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm. Large nudes, by photographer Helmut Newton who is generally regarded as a fashion exponent. These pictures are aggressively sexual and delve into the world of fantasy and female subjugation; voyeurism and many other clichés apply. Technically wonderful.

THE HAGUE SCHOOL Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until July 10, daily 10am-6pm. The Hague School of painters laid the foundations for some of the developments in twentieth-century art. Inspired by seventeenth-century Dutch canvases, their paintings between 1870 and 1900 were avidly collected in America

HUMPHREY SPENDER The Playhouse, The High, Harlow, Essex (0279 31945). Mon-Sat 11am-8pm approx. Until June 4. Retrospective of documentary photographs by Humphrey Spender. Includes his hard, objective images, dating from the 1930s, of the people of Bolton, part of Tom Harrison's Mass Observation project, less well-known pictures of the Jewish mothers and probation officers in London's East End slums during the 1930s and 1940s, and his contemporary concern: the harsh treatment meted out to the countryside by some farmers.

Critics' choice

FAREWELL'S RETURN Today, 8.30 pm, Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore Street, London W1 (025 2161, credit cards 030 8252). The American pianist Jeanne Fawcett makes a return visit, playing Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky, Danzas Argentinas by Ginastera, Preludes by Shostakovich and Beethoven's Sonata Op 110.

PSALMS AND SEA DRIFT Today, 7.45 pm, Fairfield Hall, Croydon (088 9291). James Gaddam conducts the English Symphony Orchestra and soloists in an exceptional programme: Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, Debussy's Sea Drift and Sibelius's Music Makers.

SPINNA GALA May 23, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre (491 8111). The most diverse forces gather to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the mighty Society for the Promotion of New Music. Among the world premieres are a Quartetino (1930) by Britten, Showpieces (1983) by Robin Holloway, The Legacy by William Brooks and a Quartet Movement by Peter Maxwell Davies.

LES SIX May 26, 1.15pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061). The long-running lunchtime series devoted to Les Six presents songs by Foulenc and Durey, with contributions from amusingly contrasted father-figures Satie and Fauré. Gillian Fisher sings, Paul Danilev accompanes.

CHANGES May 27, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall. Employing two oboes and cor anglais, the Trio Camerata, with Margaret Fegart (piano), give the London premiere of Barney Child's Changes, the world premiere of P. Racine Fricker's For Three. Also heard are Beethoven's Trio Op 87, Ferguson's Bagatelles and Chopin's Polonaise Op 22.

ARNELL QUARTET May 27, 7.30pm, Purcell Room. Richard Arnell's Quartet No 5 Op 93 is the novelty in the Fifth Quartet programme. Its substantial remainder consists of quartets by Ravel, Mozart (K 387) and Beethoven (Op 74, "The Harp").

MORE PIANO RARITIES May 28, 7.30pm, Music Library, Mayfield College, Cambridge. Toccata BWV 912, ends with his Partita BWV 828.

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Rock & Jazz

LONDON BLUES FESTIVAL Tonight/Tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081). All the blues fans want is "Crosscut Saw" and "Born Under a Bad Sign" from Albert King, a set of rocking South Side blues from Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, and seething Delta moans from John Lee Hooker. More likely, though, that compromise in various forms will be the order of the evening, leading to degrees of disappointment.

ROBERT PALMER Tonight, Edinburgh Playhouse; tomorrow, Tiffany's, Glasgow; Mon, Royal Court, Liverpool; Wed, Hueland, Manchester; Wed, Birmingham Odeon; Fri, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.

JOHNNY HARTMAN Mon-Sat, The Canteen, 4 Great Queen Street, London WC2 (405 6598). The veteran American baritone worked during his youth with Earl Hines and Dizzy Gillespie, but is most renowned for his beautiful 1953 recordings with John Coltrane.

WILLIE COOK Wed-Sat, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722). A lyricist of the Ellington trumpet section in the days of Clark Terry and Cat Anderson, Cook is a solid mainstream stylist.

MARTINI RARITIES May 28, 7.30pm, Music Library, Mayfield College, Cambridge. Toccata BWV 912, ends with his Partita BWV 828.

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SEE THE BEST IN CONTEMPORARY ART THE BATH FESTIVAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR from 27th to 30th May at the Assembly Rooms Bath. Over 200 artists all paintings and prints for sale. Prices from £25 to £2500.00. Browse & buy. Come to the Fair! THE BATH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ARTS 27th MAY to 12th JUNE 1983

Galleries: John Russell Taylor Photography; Michael Young Concerts; Max Harrison Rock & jazz; Richard Williams Opera; Hilary Finch; Dance; Mel Lewis

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA The company is on tour this week in Plymouth, bringing Jonathan Miller's award-winning Ripollato to the Theatre Royal on Wednesday and Saturday, Carmen on Thursday and Fledermaus on Friday. The season continues into June. Special theatre trains run at reduced prices within Devon and from Cornwall. (0752 665656).

OPERA NORTH The current season ends this week with a new production of Bizet's Beatrice et Benedict on Monday and Thursday. Inspired by the success of the opera at Buxton a few years ago, Opera North has invited US director David Alden to take charge, and the title roles will be sung by Claire Powell and John Brockwood with Eileen Hannan as Hero. (0532 439999)

FOUR SAINTS, THREE ACTS The Almeida Spring Festival stages the British premiere of the unusual opera Virgil Thomson wrote with Gertrude Stein. Lontano in the music ensemble and, in keeping with Virgil Thomson's original intent, there will be an all-black cast. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, Islington, N1, May 26 to 28, 8pm (069 4404).

THE TIMES SWEATSHIRT The classic stretch-knit sweatshirt originated in the U.S.A. as a comfortable easy-fit top for sports and leisure activities. The design, crew-neck with deep raglan sleeves and stretch-knit neck cuffs and hem, makes it a useful multi-purpose garment that offers a practical alternative to traditional pullovers and sweaters for casual and holiday wear. M.P.S. President, a well-known U.S. clothing manufacturer has produced a range of high-quality sweatshirts specifically designed for The Times readers, with the 'The Times' flock printed on the left breast of each shirt. The fabric is a fleecy-lined mixture of 50% cotton/50% acrylic and grey and denim blue and can be machine washed easily without losing its shape. The comprehensive range of sizes, from 28in chest to 44in chest should prove suitable for the whole family.

Lame Sussex under the whip

by Richard Streeton

Chelmsford Sussex (2 pts) beat Essex by 35 runs. Sussex bowled and fielded with impressive control yesterday as they captured the remaining nine Essex wickets to complete 2 thoroughly deserved victories...

Nice weather for ducks as the batsmen suffer

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Worcester match abandoned. And so it goes on, the storms getting if anything heavier and more frequent. In conditions announced as being unfit for first-class cricket, Worcester and Northamptonshire tried at New Road yesterday to start a game in the Benson & Hedges Cup...

Surrey's sleepwalkers

By Alan Gibson

25. After 16 overs, the score was only 36. Selye brought on Lloyd, of whom one still thinks as 'the young off-spinner', although he has taken more than 200 wickets for Glamorgan, and was born at Neath 30 years ago...

Clerc the first victim of new rule

From A Special Correspondent, Rome

A funny thing happened on the way to the Foro Italico. My bus driver, annoyed by the constant attempts of a waspish Fiat to overtake him, squeezed the tiny yellow bug into the stone wall of the Corso d'Italia, Lazio...

Miss Durie's play flops again in same theatre

From A Special Correspondent, West Berlin

For the second successive year John Durie lost a match she was expected to win with ease at the German Open in West Berlin yesterday. A year ago the British No 1 was beaten by Dink Hoan of South Korea, ranked 40 places below her in the world...

McEnroe still undecided

John McEnroe, the second seed for the Wimbledon singles championship, which starts on Monday, is a doubtful starter because of a shoulder injury, Philippe Charrier, the French federation president, said yesterday...

Captains upset at umpires' decision

Midweek's Benson and Hedges Cup match against Combined Universities was abandoned by rain at the last moment...

Southgate trounce French champions in fine start

From Sydney Friskin, The Hague

Vigorous tackling and some strong running, particularly by Southgate, sent the French, who were well set for a victory, to a humiliating 1-0 defeat in the 22nd minute when a dash down the left by Thomas and 2 centre by Southgate led to a well-taken goal...

Yacht rest after perfect week

By John Nicholls

By finishing third in yesterday's race, Tony Weatherall and Andy Burt have secured the highly coveted lead on points to win the highly competitive 470 class at Weymouth Olympic Week, sponsored by National Westminster Bank...

Benson and Hedges Cup tables

Table with 4 columns: Group A, Group B, Group C, Group D. Rows list teams like Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, and their respective scores.

Jesty takes command

Osman made counties' top score of 36 and with Riddell put on 49 for the sixth wicket to take the total to 168 for nine.

Table with 4 columns: Hampshire, Minor Counties. Rows list players like G. Greening, S. G. Phipps, and their scores.

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Entertainments

ROYAL ALBERT HALL Kensington SW7 2AP

POPULAR PRICES. 3,200 TICKETS AT £3 OR LESS

TOMORROW at 7.30 GALA GERSHWIN EVENING

George Gershwin's Melodies, An American in Paris, Rhapsody in Blue, Porgy & Bess

AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN MUSIC

Dr. Rossini & Liszt, Dr. The Bardic Suite, Suite for Piano

VIENNESE EVENING

Dr. Strauss & Liszt, Dr. The Bardic Suite, Suite for Piano

THURSDAY NEXT 26 MAY at 7.30pm ROYAL GALA CONCERT

JOHN OGDON, ORFF; CARMINA BURANA SHEILA ARMSTRONG, ALEXANDER OLIVER, STEPHEN ROBERTS

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Conductor LEON LOVETT

FRIDAY 3 JUNE at 7.30pm JOHN AMIS introduces AN ORGAN EXTRAVAGANZA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Conductor NORMAN DEL MAR

JANE PARKER-SMITH GEORGE BLACKMORE, HECTOR OLIVERA (USA)

POULENC ORGAN CONCERTO in C minor for ORGAN, STRINGS & TIMPANI

JONGEN WALTON CROWN IMPERIAL

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Family life on the fashionable young



In search of a trendy straight jacket

Leisure wear for all the family, you will not be surprised to learn, is here to stay; and children, according to the trade, will forever be in blue jeans - the most serviceable garment to be invented since the jumper.

Buyers at Marks & Spencer and Harrods tell me that children are becoming increasingly demanding about the clothes they choose to wear. Gone are the days (did they ever exist?) when they wore what you told them to or thought suited them.

Sometimes a refusal to wear a particular garment can be put down to the fact that it is uncomfortable - too tight, "scratchy", too many buttons - but as often it is simply the result of genuine dislike.

The poor boys who still have to make their way to prep schools wearing their knickerbockers or the girls whose mothers turn them out looking like Ovaltines (there are still some about) may develop a tough carapace to shield them from ridicule - and will also probably acquire massive inferiority complexes.

but what can I do?" wails his mother. The answer is, not a lot - unless she is prepared to do battle and enforce her will, as another friend does with a 12-year-old daughter. The latter's fashion sense is strong but completely at variance with her mother's.



OUTINGS

CANAL CAVALCADE Little Venice, Warwick Avenue, London W2. Today and tomorrow, 10am-7pm, free

ANTIQUE TOY AND DOLL CONVENTION West Centre Hotel, Little Road, London SW6. Tomorrow from 9.30am. Adults £2.50, children £1

ANIMALS IN WAR Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. Opens May 26. 10am-5.30pm. Adults £1, children 50p

ROYAL MEWS OPEN DAY Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1. May 27, 10.30am-12.30pm, 2.30-3.30pm. Adults £1, children 50p

ANTARCTIC ECOLOGY Moleculax Club, Moleculax Theatre, Puddle Dock, London EC4 (288 9251, ext 259). Tomorrow, 6pm. Adults £1, children 50p

RUBBING AGAINST THE PAST Science Museum, South Kensington, SW7 (688 3456 ext 562). Today, 11am

GERARD AND JEAN FAMILY CONCERT Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191). Tomorrow, 8.15pm. Tickets £1.60

J.F.

PREVIEW Films

Ploughman's slice of life

The constituents of the average ploughman's lunch are only too familiar: cheese, pickle, crusty bread, a token salad. Luckily the new British film called The Ploughman's Lunch offers far more novelty.

The film also opens the production schedule of a new company, Greenpoint Films, formed largely by talents experienced in television - directors Christopher Morahan, John Mackenzie, Stephen Frears

Other stage directors might have balked at the constant location shooting (there was only one day in a conventional film studio). But Eyre's confident directing style should come as no surprise.



Man on the make: Jonathan Pryce as an opportunist BBC radio reporter interviewing Rosemary Harris, socialist historian

Critics' choice

CONFIDENCE (15) Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/727 5750) until May 25

FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART III (18) ABC Baywater (229 4149)

WORLD OF NOBLES (15) ABC Fulham Road (278 2636)

THE RISE TO POWER OF LOUIS XIV (No cert) ICA Cinema, The Mall (930 3647 closed Mon). Until May 25

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Films on TV

The collaboration between Dirk Bogarde and the expatriate American director Joseph Losey extended over five films, including The Servant and King and Country, and did much to establish Bogarde as one of our most formidable screen actors.

Channel 4's offering this afternoon (2.50-4.35pm) is The Green Pastures, made in 1936 with an all-black cast and retelling Old Testament stories through the eyes of Negro children.

Also on BBC tonight (11.05pm-12.55am) is The Witness, a satirical comedy from Hungary about the attempt by the state to make a dam-keeper a star witness in a show trial.

Also showing: Today: The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1956), BBC2, 3.25-5.05pm

Also showing: Today: The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1956), BBC2, 3.25-5.05pm

Also showing: Today: The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1956), BBC2, 3.25-5.05pm

(continued on page 22)

Advertisement for Velour Stretch Covers, featuring a large image of a chair and text describing the product and offering a 50% off coupon.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

FA CUP FINAL: Will Brighton become the first side to win the cup and be relegated in the same season? Manchester United's weight of talent would suggest not, though it has had a surprising run of results in recent years, not least when United fell to second division Southampton. Full live coverage from Wembley on BBC1 and ITV from 3pm, after the usual exhaustive - and exhausting - build-up.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL: Aberdeen, fresh from their triumph over Real Madrid in the European Cup Winners Cup, are hoping to complete a double as they take on Rangers at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Television viewers in Scotland can see the whole match on BBC1 and STV, kick off 3pm.

METRO-LAND: By popular demand, a repeat showing of Sir John Betjeman's memorable excursion from commuter country as he follows the Metropolitan Railway from Baker Street to rural Buckinghamshire and discovers some odd corners on the way: a classic of personalized documentary. BBC2, 7.45-8.35pm.

Tomorrow

THE MILK RACE: The leading event in the British cycling calendar follows the fashion for open racing and has professionals competing for the first time against the international amateur teams. But the Russians will again start as favourites. From Bournemouth, the race takes in Enstol, Coventry, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Hull and Aidsborough before finishing at Blackpool on June 4. Time trials today from 11am: race proper starts tomorrow, 10.15am. Westover Road, Bournemouth.

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX: After failing to make the start at Monte Carlo, John Watson of Britain will be particularly keen to repeat his win in this event last year and stay in touch with the world championship leaders. The venue has been switched from Zolder, which saw the tragic death in practice of Gilles Villeneuve, to Spa. Live coverage on Sunday Grandstand, BBC2, from 2pm.

DANGEROUS CORNER: Anthony Valentine, Sarah Badel and Susanna Vesilwood in a new production of the famous "time" play by J. B. Priestley, in which a musical cigarette box handed round during a dinner party sets off a chain of revelations and emotional conflicts. Play of the Month, BBC1, 7.50-9.20pm. Another Priestley play opens at Chichester this week (see Monday).

Monday

A KIND OF LIVING: Ten-part series introduced by the actress Susan Penhaligon, which looks at ways of becoming more self-sufficient, from growing your own food to rearing poultry and livestock, fish farming and producing your own energy. Channel 4, 5-5.30pm. A book to accompany the programmes is published by Hamish Hamilton at £8.95.

UNDERGROUND: Hell is other people and a tube train stranded between stations, in Michael Sloan's new thriller, commencing a provincial tour before the West End opening. Directed by Simon Williams, with Raymond Burr, Alfred Marks, Gerald Flood, Ian Cullen, Elspeth March, Ronald Leigh-Hunt, Linda Hayden, Peter Wyngarde. Theatre Royal, Nottingham

(0602 42328/9). Opens today, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8pm. Seats for today's performances are two for the price of one.

TIME AND THE CONWAYS: The Chichester Festival season continues with J. B. Priestley's domestic drama joining A Patriot for Me in repertory. Directed by Peter Dews, with Google Withers and Julia Foster. Chichester Festival theatre (0243 781312). Previews today and tomorrow at 7.30pm. Opens Wed at 7pm, May 26 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC CENTENARY: Is marked today by a gale concert at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Sir Michael Tippett conducts the Ritual Dances from his opera, The Midsummer Marriage, and the other composers represented include Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, Malcolm Arnold, Benjamin Britten and Sir Hubert Parry. Live relay on BBC2 introduced by Richard Baker, from 7.25pm.

Tuesday

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW: see main feature, page 1.

THEY CAME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE: A science fiction spoof, intuitively performed and directed by the Brighton-based Cliff Hanger Theatre Company. Lyric, Hammersmith (741 2311). Opens today at 7pm, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees on Sat at 4.15pm.

FISHING AIDS: Sale devoted to fishing tackle and golfing equipment. Items range from the severely practical - a oreenheart three-piece trout spinning rod by Forrest with spare tip - to collectors' pieces such as a Victorian engraved gilt brass reel with ivory handle. Christie's & Edmiston's, Bath Street, Glasgow (041-332 8134) 11am.

THE COMEDY WITHOUT A TITLE: Rare production of four plays by Angelo Beolco (see page 5).

Wednesday

SILVER AND JADE: The collection of a successful Bradford wool merchant, George Whitaker, is to be auctioned this summer. More than seventy pieces, including an Elizabeth I parcel-gilt wine-cup and a Qing Dynasty jade tripod censer and cover, are on show at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060), Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm. Free. Until June 8.

BRITISH IMPRESSIONISTS: With the return of confidence to the market Saatchi & Saatchi are staging the best sale of twentieth-century British paintings for many years; a delight to view even if expensive to buy. There is a brilliant Ginner roofscape, "A Corner in Chelsea", a Stanley Spencer self-portrait, Lucien Freud's "Nude with dark hair" of 1960-61, some good Sickerts and a fine group of Clausens. Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), 11am.

TUDOR MAPS: No fewer than 18 hand-coloured maps of Tudor England by Christopher Saxton come up for sale today. The series includes maps of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Pembroke, Hampshire, Somerset, Cornwall, and Lancashire. Bonham's, Montpelier Street, London (584 9161) 11am.

HITLER MEMORABILIA: Twelve postcards including portraits of Hitler and pictures of him on parade are estimated at £40-£50 in a postcard and



From left: Quentin Bell, terracotta technician; Michael Gambon, Barbican Lear; Jeremy Gilley, Buggy Malone

cigarette card sale. Other subjects include pictures of Mussolini (£30-£50) and a set of 30 Spanish Civil War Hoist (£100-£150). Ogden's comic pictures found in the cigarette packets of the 1890's are expected to fetch more than £100 each and an incomplete set of Wills ships of 1895 carry an estimate of £200-£300. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (2229 6602) noon.

WALKER CUP: The biennial golf tournament between the amateur players of Britain and the United States starts at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake. The Americans, who include in their team Nat Crosby, son of Bing, have lost only twice since the event started in 1922. Coverage during the day on BBC1 and BBC2 from 11.55am; highlights on BBC1, 11.20-midnight. Play continues tomorrow.

THE WORLD: A TELEVISION HISTORY: An ambitious 25-part series, narrated by Robert Powell and based on the Times Atlas of World History. Maps and graphics, produced by the advanced technology of computer animation, are a feature of the programmes, which also make use of still photography, library film and location shooting. The first in the series, Human Origins, follows man's development from 10 million BC to 8,000 BC. Channel 4, 6.30-7pm.

KING LEAR: The successful Stratford production transfers to the Barbican. Directed by Adrian Noble, with Michael Gambon as Lear, Anthony Sher as the Fool, Jenny Agutter as Regan, Sara Kestelman as Goneril, Alice Krige as Cordelia, Clive Wood as Edmund. Barbican (828 8795). Previews from today, at 7.30pm. Opens May 31 at 7pm.

PEER GYNT: Ibsen's self-declared "dramatic poem" in a translation by David Rudkin, directed by Ron Daniels: a transfer from Stratford's Other Place, with Derek Jacobi, Katy Beahan, Jeffrey Dench and Derek Godfrey. The Pit (828 8795). Previews from today at 7.30pm. Opens June 9 at 7pm.



Betjeman by rail

TOM SAWYER: Adapted by Rony Robinson, directed by Graham Watkins and performed by the Phoenix Theatre Company. Phoenix Arts, Newark Street, Leicester (0533 554854). Opens today, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm until June 4; matinees May 26, June 1 and 2, 7 & 9 at 2pm and Sat at 2.30pm. Additional performances May 27, June 8 and 9 at 10am.

Thursday

FORGING AHEAD: London Transport celebrates its golden jubilee with an exhibition of current projects, including a narrow gauge "light transit" railway between Tower Hill and the Isle of Dogs; a bus computer control system, with working display; and the modernization of Tottenham Court Road Central Line station with mosaics by Eduardo Paolozzi. London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (379 8344). Daily 10am-6pm. Adults £1.80, children, students, pensioners 90p; family ticket £4.40. Until Nov 27.

QUENTIN BELL: An exhibition of his latest terracotta sculptures to coincide with the publication of his book, Techniques of Terracotta, published by Christo and Winifred The Hogarth Press. The 30 items show his fascination with the female form, though there are also some abstracts, and most are delicately hand-painted with watercolour. Liberty's, Regent Street, London W1 (734 1234). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm (late opening Thurs to 7pm); Sat 9.30am-5.30pm. Free. Until June 10.

BUYING BUILDINGS: What did buildings actually look like in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, or what did the architect dream they would look like? Fascinating architectural drawings are included in today's sale, ranging from Buckingham Palace in 1850, to elevations for the Grand Palais in Paris, a fireplace at

Longest and the interior of a vicarage in the 1890s. Sotheby's, Bond Street, London, W1 (493 8080), 2.30pm.

FLOWER PAINTINGS: An auction of more than 150 flower pictures to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. There are paintings, watercolours and related sculpture. The catalogue (£5) also admits two people to a picnic reception before the sale. Viewing May 22, 10am to 4pm, May 23-25, 9am to 7pm, today 9am to 2pm. Bonham's, Montpelier Street, London, SW7 (584 9161) 6.30pm.

TRADESCANT GARDEN RECREATED: John Tradescant, who travelled the world for unusual plants and laid out the grounds of Hatfield House in the early seventeenth century, has his own garden at Lambeth. This modern recreation is officially opened today by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at 3pm. Museum of Garden History, St Mary-at-Lambeth, SE1 (261 1891). Mon-Fri 11am-3pm, Sun 10.30am-5pm, closed Sat and all day today, Free.

STARFLIGHT ONE: Jeremy Jameson's science fiction film in which a space vehicle is sent to rescue a supersonic airliner that has mistakenly gone out of orbit's gravity when climbing to a satellite orbit. With Les Mathers, Hil Linden and Lauren Hutton. Cert U. Classic Haymarket (837 1527) and on London release.

THE GUNS AND THE FURY: Film set in Persia at the turn of the century when the Americans were drilling for oil there to the annoyance of the local tribesmen. Directed by Tony Zarindast, with Peter Graves, Cameron Mitchell and Michael Ansara. Cert PG. Prince Charles (437 7003).

NELLY'S VERSION: Riverside Studios re-opens its cinema programme with the premiere of an enigmatic, polished thriller based on an Eva Figgis novel, written and directed by Maurice Haton, the wayward lead among independent film-makers. Eileen Atkins, spiky cast, is the heroine with a blank past and a disturbing present. Cryptic music by Michael Nyman. No certificate. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (748 3354). Today until May 27 at 7.30pm; May 28 at 3pm followed by a discussion with directors and stars.

STING II: Ten years later, Universal Studios and writer David S. Ward try to repeat the original mixture of levish con tricks, Scott Joplin music and period charm. Directed by Jeremy Paul Kagan; with Jackie Gleason, Mac Davis, Teri Garr, Karl Malden. Cert PG. ABC Bayswater (225 4148); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861); Classic Oxford Street (636 0310); Piazza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234); and on national release.

THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH: Richard Eyre's first feature film. See page 7.

SUBWAY RIDERS: First British run of Amos Poe's 1981 film noir about a psychotic New York saxophonist whose victims are lured to deserted spots by his music. Music by Robert Fripp and others. No certificate. ICA Cinema, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647).

THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON: Jason Miller wrote the screenplay and directed the film of his award-winning Broadway play about four former Pennsylvania state high school basketball champions and their coach who meet to reminisce after 25 years. With Martin Sheen, Stacy Keach, Bruce Dern, Robert Mitchum and Paul Sorvino. Cert 15. Classic Haymarket (837 1527).

BUGSY MALONE: The children's gangster musical, based on Alan Parker's film. Music and lyrics by Paul Malone, adapted for the stage and directed by Michael Dolenz. Her Majesty's (830 6606). Opens today at 7pm. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

NIGHTSHADE: British premiere of a dark comedy by Stewart Parker, in which a morose and amateur magician is beset by his disturbed, tap-dancing daughter, a power-hungry assistant and strike threats from the Union of Funeral Service Operatives. Directed by Peter Farago, with Kenny Ireland, Madeline Church, Derek Thompson. Repertory Studio, Birmingham (021 236 4455). Opens today, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm.

GLYNDEBOURNE: New season opens with Adorned, directed by Trevor Nunn (see Opera, page 7).

WALTER AND JUNE: A sequel to the highly acclaimed film Walter, which was shown on the opening night of Channel 4 in November, Ian McKellen again plays the mentally handicapped man, the long term resident of a mental hospital where he meets and falls in love with June (Sarah Miles), a suicidally depressed young woman. Stephen Frears is the director. Channel 4, 9.30-10.45pm.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY: The famous Oxford University Union debate of February 1953 is recalled by some of those who took part for the British in the Thirties series. The union passed the motion "that the house would in no circumstances fight for King and Country", allegedly encouraging Hitler and Mussolini in their aggressive designs. BBC2, 9.30-10.05pm.

FAT MAN AT WORK: A new series by the plump and engaging Tom Vernon which looks at the interesting, odd and downright boring ways in which people make a living. The first of the six programmes starts on the production line at a jam factory, moving on to a tractor assembly plant and a cigarette factory. Radio 4, 10.02-10.30pm.

Friday

SUN ALLIANCE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP: Tony Jacklin begins his defence of the golf title he won last year in a sudden death play-off with Bernhard Langer of West Germany. Langar, Nick Faldo, winner of the French Open, and Greg Norman of Australia, are also in contention for the £15,000 prize. Coverage from Royal St George's, BBC2, from 11.25am.

NATIONS CUP: West Germany are the favourites for the international showjumping competition sponsored by Everest Double Glazing; but they should face a strong challenge for Britain and France. All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, Sussex (0273 834315). Until May 30, Daily from 9am. Admission £1 to £4.

ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION: A preview of the 215th exhibition, one of the most popular events in the art world, which opens tomorrow. BBC2, 7.20-7.50pm.

BELLES: Robert Gary and Marilyn Headed as two female impersonators who arrive to perform their act at a night club in a small South Coast resort in David Clough's first play for television. The trouble is that their usual line in patter is unlikely to be appropriate for the bisexual-and-pearls audience. BBC2, 9.30-10.25pm.

Collecting/botanical drawings

Where art adorns a science



Watercolour and gouache by Georg Dionysius Ehret (1710-1770): Pentapetes phoenicea (L)

In recent years botanical drawings have become increasingly popular with collectors, who like the combination of scientific interest and decorative impact. But it is only now that a dealer has thought to mount an exhibition which chronicles the growth of the scientific approach to botanical study. "The Discovery of Nature", as the show is felicitously called, opens on Wednesday at Eyre & Hobhouse, 39 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1, and closes on June 17.

In Europe accurate representations of specimen plants and flowers began to be made long before the whole matter of botanical classification was settled. In seventeenth-century Holland an important source of patronage was provided by hulk dealers and nursery men, who wanted to advertise their wares - chiefly tulips and carnations. Some of the early drawings included in the show seem to fall into this category. It was Linnaeus who changed the chaos botany was in to order. His system of classification was based on the

arrangement of sexual organs inside the flower, and he provided plants with two Latin names, one of which denoted the larger group to which it belonged - the genus - while the other designated a sub-group - the particular species.

One of Linnaeus's most important collaborators was a young German draughtsman called Georg Dionysius Ehret. The show at Eyre & Hobhouse contains a group of unfinished drawings or sketches by him, one inscribed "This specimen I received of Sir Hans Sloane, 1747".

Equally fine is a group of four drawings on vellum by the French artist Panrace Bessa, born in 1772 and one of the chief followers of Redouté. He eventually became the official painter to the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. These four drawings, all of them rivalling in decorative value an extremely grand provenance - they were given by Charles X of France to the Duchesse de Berri, and then passed to the



Gouache by Pierre J. F. Turpin (1775-1840): Fuchsia magellanica (Lam.) and Aster Etarveyi (Gray) (Aster)

Bridge

Young Britons confound the Jeremiahs

The final rounds of the Continental Life Cup were played in Leeds at the end of April. This new, richly endowed competition is a most welcome addition to the tournament calendar.

Earlier in the month, the 50 surviving teams from an entry of 300 contested the four regional finals at Leeds, Watford, London, and Bristol. The four regional winners then joined the four invited teams: America, represented by Eisenburg, Kanari, Berkovitz and Goldar, the French Olympic champions, Chemla, Mari, Ferron, and Levy; the nucleus of the team that will represent Great Britain in the European Championship, Price, Duckworth, Duncan and Shorro; and the British "Old Guard", Friday, Rodrigue, Sheehan, Lose and Flint.

In three of the quarter-finals, the seeded teams justified their status with something to spare. But the French caught a tartar in the shape of Keith Stanley's team (Smolski, Breskal, and Alderwood). After 64 boards the score was a tie. The triolere revealed by 9 IMPs when the teams played the eight extra boards.

This hand caused Breskal and Calderwood some heartache. Continental Life Cup finals. North-South Game. Dealer West.

When the French missed the slam the scene was set for a decisive swing. But alas, Breskal and Calderwood also fell short.

54-point lead, failed by two IMPs to resist the young pretenders' spirited counter-attack.

In the closed room the Americans settled for the "safe" part score of three hearts. Declarer took the ♠Q and returned to his hand with a diamond ruff. He cashed the ♠A, but when he played the partner in with the ♠K to play another spade. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠A. When he misguessed the trumps he lost

three tricks (two clubs and three trumps). In the open room, the British were more aggressive.

The British team lost some of their lead, but emerged comfortable winners by 25 IMPs. Not only did they win the cup, and £2,000 worth of bonds, but they also had the immeasurable satisfaction of forcing those Cassandras who have dismissed the team's chances of winning the European Championship to polish their crystal ball.

Jeremy Flint

Chess

Home-made prodigies of the board

There seems to be a recurrent feature in the lives of young chess prodigies that of learning how to play through watching a relative - often father or an uncle, play the game.

The four-year-old Capablanca learnt chess through watching his father play a friend, and the story is echoed by that relating to the Russian chess genius Garry Kasparov, who picked up chess just by watching his parents at the board.

"Is it of any particular importance?" Vankov went on, that you already have to meet grandmaster Alexander Belyavsky in the quarter-finals of the Candidates? "Of course, from the point of view of preparation! Belyavsky is a very strong opponent, but even before the draw I thought it was much the same, whomever I met first."

Asked whom he thought he would meet if he beat Belyavsky, Kasparov replied that it depended on the result of the match between Portisch and Korchnoi and in that match he was reckoning on a win for the Hungarian grandmaster.

The start of a manoeuvre aimed at occupation of the vital K85 square.

A strong move after which Black is clearly in difficulties.

Chess board diagrams and analysis. Includes diagrams of chess pieces and board positions, and text explaining moves and strategies. Mentions 'The vice is tightening on K85' and 'Desperation; but he has no defence against the threatened R-R1 and Q-Q2'.

Harry Golombek

Next week's Prize Jumbo Crossword

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 695.2 down 3.2 FT 681s: 80.57 down 0.10 FT All Share: 424.88 down 3.07 Bargains: 20,070 Tring Hill USM Index: 165.7 down 1.4 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones, 8,581.45 down 22.97 Hongkong: 942.05 up 13.83 New York: Dow Jones Average (midday) 1,167.89 down 3.48

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5580 up 20pts Index 84.1 up 0.2 DM 2.4772 down 13pts FrF 11.56 down 0.50 Yen 364.50 Dollar Index 122.7 up 0.1 DM 2.4772 down 13pts Gold \$439.50 up \$1 NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$438.75 Sterling \$1.5665

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rates 10 3 month interbank 10 1/8 10 1/8 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 1/8 3 month DM 5 1/8 3 month FrF 13 1/8 13 1/8 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 6 to May 3, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Nimble 76p up 21p Dunlops 11.5p up 2.5p Harton 73p up 10p C Booth 23p up 3p Kennedy Brooks 233p up 25p Ingram 45p up 4p Collins K 20p down 7.75p Chem Methods 103p down 15p Wearwell 57p down 8p Wadland 74p down 10p Ldn Priv Health 27p down 3p Redfeam 90p down 10p

Suter slumps to £1.26m loss

Granttham-based Suter slumped last year to a pretax loss of £1.26m, compared with a pretax profit of £574,000 for the 19 months to December 31, 1981. The group results for the first four months of the present year are "encouraging". A total dividend of 2.5p gross is being paid for 1982. This is marginally higher than the dividend paid on an annualized basis for the previous 19 months.

The board's confidence in the future is reflected in the talks for the purchase of the air-conditioning, refrigeration and air-side heat-exchanger business of Delta RA from the Delta Group.

SHIPPING LOSS: Wheelock Maritime International, one of the top shipping companies in Hongkong and part of the Wheelock Marine group, has run into liquidity problems after sinking into trading losses. From a profit of \$HK863,000 (£80,000) after tax and minority interests last year, the group is not paying any final dividend.

BENN BATTLE: The formal offer document dealing with Exel's revised offer for Benn Bros contains a forecast by Benn's board that pretax profits before exceptional items for the year to June 30 next will be slightly lower than the previous year.

OIL DECLINE: Britain's North Sea oilfields showed a sharp decline in production last month, due according to estimates published today, to technical reasons, some oilfields being shut for planned maintenance. April production - at more than two million barrels a day - is expected to bring the Government about £690m in tax revenue.

BP CUT: British Petroleum is continuing the drastic rationalization of its United Kingdom oil products business by closing down most of its lubricants distribution network, including depots and warehouses with the possible loss of up to 350 jobs.

BANK FUNDS PLAN: The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plans to raise funds in Switzerland through public issues or private placements, according to Mr William Deacon, director, group planning and development.

AFRICAN LOANS: The World Bank has announced loans to five African countries which are: Zimbabwe (\$26.4m), Togo (\$40m), Uganda (\$20m) and Zambia (\$16m).

WALL STREET

Shares remain lower

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks were moving lower again yesterday after a hesitant effort to recover from their initial declines ran out of steam. The Dow Jones industrial average was off almost 6 points at 1,185. It had recovered to a fractional loss before sliding again. Declines were more than 8-10 ahead of advances in moderate trading.

Mr Richard Yashewski, director of Technical Research for Butcher & Singer, said the market had been attempting for the past week or so, to work off an overbought condition. "Wednesday's attempt at a rally was too little too soon and it needs to work down that condition first."

Mr Yashewski added: "Our expectation is that the corrective process is likely to last several more days and could bring the average down to 1,179. A lot of people are looking for a major correction here but even if this magnificent first leg of superbull is ending, we will have a second look at the 1,225 to 1,250 area before the market goes down."

Communications Satellite was up 3/8 to 75. Merck was 37 1/4, up 3/4. International Business Machines 110 1/2, off 3/8. General Electric 106, up 5/8. Exxon 33 1/4, up 1/8. General Motors 66 1/4, up 1/4. Eastman Kodak 74 3/4, up 1/8. Abbott Laboratories 44 5/8, unchanged. American Express 67, up 1/2, and Time Inc 68 up 1/2.

Massey UK expects turnaround

By Our Financial Staff Massey Ferguson's United Kingdom tractor business, a part of the Canadian-based worldwide Massey organization, is set to return to profit this year after two years of heavy losses.

The board of the United Kingdom company, which has a turnover of £609m a year, said that as a result of a £390m refinancing package agreed for the Massey organization, the British group should return to profit during the year.

This follows yesterday's announcement of pretax losses of £35.4m in the 15 months to January 31. The figures include extraordinary costs associated with the reorganization of the business including the redundancies which followed the closure of the Massey factory at Knowsley in Cheshire.

The results were also affected by poor trading conditions despite an end to the four-year decline in United Kingdom tractor sales. Massey's UK tractor sales were up by 33 per cent compared with 1981 which restored the company's position as market leader, while sales of industrial tractors increased by 14 per cent. But the company reported that there was still no indication of any improvement in the combine harvester market.

Last December, Massey announced details of plans to invest £11m over the next three years at the Banner Lane tractor factory in Coventry. The investment follows extensive redundancies at the factory where the number of employees has fallen by 2,000 to 4,500 since 1980.

MULTI GUARANTEE: Receivers have been called in at Multi Guarantee, the Kent-based company which specializes in arranging extended guarantee schemes for domestic appliances bought through electrical discount stores. Mr Bill Mackey, from the receivers, Ernst & Whinney, will handle all claims arising from policies issued.

Chairman complains of too much talent

ICI problems 'are our fault'

By Jonathan Davis

Mr John Harvey-Jones, the chairman of ICI, is pinning responsibility for the company's problems over the last few years firmly on the failings of its talented even overtalented management.

"I think that this company has taken a disproportionate share of British management talent for a great many years, and not turned in the performance that the talent should have achieved," says an interview with The Director magazine, published yesterday.

"That is partly because we have had too many people, and having too many bright people is almost worse than having too few. People may stop things happening rather than start things happening."

"We have had very able management. If, therefore, we have failed to perform - and we have - that says something about the leadership, the direction and the organization of these people."

Mr Harvey-Jones, who has moved quickly to streamline ICI's management structure and give a greater say to the company's seven non-executive directors, tells the magazine, the journal of the Institute of Directors, that most of the

Conditions favour boost in trading, says chairman

Courtaulds launches £71m rights issue as profits increase 24pc

By Jeremy Warner

Courtaulds yesterday launched a £71m rights issue to finance increased investment in both new and established activities. At the same time it announced a 24 per cent increase in pretax profits for the year.

The textile group, which also manufactures paints and chemicals, is offering one new share at 75p for every three shares held. The offer will saddle the general election but the company is not worried about the effects of any political uncertainty.

Mr Christopher Hogg, the chairman, said the company had considered dropping the rights issue when the date of the election was announced but

Courtaulds Year to 31.3.83 Pretax profit £83.3m (£51.1m) Stated earnings 11.4p (8.88p) Turnover £1,905.5m (£1,789.4m) Net final dividend 2.25p, mkg 3.25p (3p) Shares price 95p, down 7p. Yield 4.5%

decided that it would then "have been difficult to get a slot in the right queue until the late summer". A large number of companies will be attempting to raise new money after the election if markets are still favourable.

Courtaulds has made no secret of its desire to make a large acquisition in the United States, but one does not appear to be imminent. According to Mr Hogg: "We are too dependent



Hogg: "Two dependent on textiles for comfort" on textiles for comfort, and too dependent on the UK for comfort. But it is essential we find something we can feel completely comfortable with before we make our move."

The group announced that for the year ending last March it increased its pretax profits from £51.1m to £83.3m, an improvement of 24 per cent. But substantial extraordinary items of £28.2m which related mainly to rationalization costs, helped to reduce profits attributable to shareholders to £3.3m.

Mr Hogg, who pointed out that in the past three years the British workforce had fallen nearly 40 per cent to about 30,000, said he thought that the worst was over as far as restructuring went but it was too early to say this with confidence.

The improvement in pretax profits arose mainly from better productivity in Britain, where it traded against a background of unchanged volume sales and of

costs rising faster than selling prices. Trading profits in Britain rose from £18.5m to £35.5m, but profits overseas fell from £51.1m to £45.8m. The severe recession in the shipbuilding industry had an adverse effect on the group's International Paints offshoot, where pretax profits fell from £29.9m to £24.6m.

Mr Hogg said that "underlying conditions favour us more now than for some time past: if they persist they will give us a welcome boost along the road to improved trading performance."

On the stock market yesterday Courtaulds shares fell 7p to 95p in response to news of the rights issue.

Debenhams' trading profits up 59pc

By Derek Harris, commercial Editor

Debenhams, the department stores chain, increased its 12-month trading profits after interest by 59 per cent as the company continued its drive to squeeze operating costs and then shared in the retailing upturn from the middle of last year.

But with property sales yielding only £7.4m compared with the previous year's £23m, pretax profits were off 27 per cent.

With Debenhams the target of bid speculation - even though at 154p against net assets at around £20p it is hardly at bargain basement level - the board was quick to point out that it believes the chain is in an increasingly strong position.

Mr Ken Bishop, managing director for finance, said: "It has been a good result for the second half and that good performance is continuing. It has lifted furnishing sales and the rest seems to be coming along too, although there is nothing dramatic."

He added: "With the cost control that we have now and improved profits, we are going to see a good year." The big jump in trading

DEBENHAMS Year to 29.1.83 Pretax profit £18.6m (£27m) Stated earnings 10.8p (17.2p) Turnover £878.5m (£854m) Net final dividend 4.76p making 6.80p (6.3858p) Share price 134p Yield 7.25% Dividend payable 1.10.83

profits is partly due to an increased contribution from the group's credit operation, Welbeck Finance. Welbeck clipped in £8m against £4.5m the previous year.

But the trading profits are up despite sales turnover rising only 3.4 per cent. Interest charges were £5.5m, up £0.5m on the previous year, but this reflected stock problems in the first half. This situation is now improved

and the improvement should continue to show through in the current year, said Mr Bishop. The board emphasizes that the profit improvements have been achieved in a difficult year for retailing. Part of the attack on operating costs has "shop in shop" developments by external operators and a growing number of internal specialist companies. This is already leading to increased efficiency, the board says.

Linfood set to clinch Key Markets takeover

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Alec Monk, chairman of Linfood Holdings, has been given the go ahead to complete the £40.8m takeover of the Fitch Lovell Key Markets supermarket chain.

Fitch shareholders threw out a resolution proposing acceptance of a rival £27.8m bid for Key Markets by Safeway at an extraordinary meeting called by the Fitch board yesterday.

Mr Michael Webster, chairman of Fitch, advised shareholders to vote against the Safeway bid to allow a deal to be struck with Linfood. In the absence of a further offer from Safeway to match the Linfood bid, Fitch and Linfood shareholders will be asked to agree the sale of the 105 Key Markets stores to Linfood at separate meetings on June 10.

Mr Monk originally attempted to takeover the whole of Fitch Lovell by mounting an

£87m takeover bid last October. The bid was referred to the Monopolies Commission and Fitch announced a separate deal to sell Key Markets to Safeway for £34.8m.

Mr Monk eventually topped the Safeway offer. He said yesterday that the potential of Key Markets under Linfood's retailing management justifies the offer.

In a letter to Linfood shareholders he indicated that Linfood's retailing activities generated United Kingdom sales of £466m and pretax profits estimated at £11.5m in the year to April 30. These profits would be the major force in contributing to pretax profits of £16.5m for the year.

Last night, Safeway declined to comment on whether it intended to renew its interest in acquiring Key Markets before the June shareholder meetings.

Trident merger referred

By Our Financial Staff

The shares of Trident Television fell 7p to 79p yesterday when Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, announced a wider merger involving the Kent-based Trident and the Kent-based Pleasurama for investment by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Pleasurama's failure to disentangle its complex relationship with Grand Metropolitan, was clearly an important factor in the decision. GrandMet owns

nearly 30 per cent of Pleasurama's shares and the two companies also have a joint interest in two London casinos. The three groups would together have 11 of the country's 18 casinos and about 60 per cent of the total drop - the amount of money exchanged for chips.

Yesterday's decision followed the advice of Mr Gordon Borrie, the Director General of the office of fair trading.

changes since he took over as chairman were geared to improve the efficiency of the board.

"I'm coming from a military upbringing and background and one of the things that was drummed into me as a boy was that there are no bad troops. There are only bad leaders."

Mr Harvey-Jones says that most ICI management have spent most of their lives in the company, and have little concept how other companies run themselves. We tend to think that the way we do things is not only the best way, but the only way.

Mr Harvey-Jones says that currency fluctuations have in three years become the most important factor governing ICI's investment decision making.

Move to oust Sturla director

By Andrew Cornelius

Shareholders of Sturla Holdings, the finance group whose shares were suspended in March, are being asked to support Mr Robert Knight, the company's chairman, who faces fraud charges, at an extraordinary meeting on June 9.

Mr Knight, who is banned by court order from the premises of the Sturla finance group, is proposing that Mr David Britton, the managing director, should be removed from Office.

He also proposes that Mr Roger Peters should be appointed a director in his place and that Mr Clive Hamilton-Mudge should be appointed to the Sturla board.

The proposals are in direct contradiction to an earlier resolution from a group of shareholders supporting Mr Britton, to the effect that Mr Knight should be removed from the board.

Mr Britton is running the Sturla business in the absence of Mr Knight and Mr Mosie Hochenbach, the finance director, who has not attended recent board meetings. Mr Britton said last night he was pleased shareholders would have the opportunity to sort out the company's problems at one meeting.

Share dealings in Sturla were suspended pending announcements on the company's long overdue figures, boardroom

changes and a loan relating to a property development in Spain. The company's affairs are further complicated by police charges which have been levelled against Mr Knight on two counts. He has been charged with conspiring to defraud financial institutions and given conditional bail, and separately charged with conspiring to defraud Sturla Holdings and its shareholders.

A court order barred Mr Knight from attempting to remove Mr Britton as managing director, and from attending the company's premises, before shareholders had been given a chance to vote on proposed changes at an extraordinary meeting.

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Bid hopes boost Dunlop shares

By Michael Clark

Shares of Dunlop Holdings, the loss-making tyre manufacturer, surged to within a whisker of the group's high yesterday as the stock market braced itself for a full bid from the Far East.

Heavy buying of the shares for the new stock exchange account saw them close 13p higher at 76p just 1p short of the year's high as US buyers swooped on London and picked up a further 5 million shares, or 3.9 per cent of the equity.

Almost 10 million shares have been picked up by US

buyers this week, lifting the share price from Monday's opening level of 53p. At 76p, the group is valued at £109m.

Gafar Abdul Baba's Pegi Multi Purpose is being hotly tipped as the most likely candidate to make a bid. Only last month he spent £13.5m increasing his stake from 16.7 per cent to 26 per cent.

Dunlop has always maintained it is on the best of terms with Pegi, which had increased its holdings only to consolidate its position in the group.

But with profits collapsing from £54m to a loss of £7m in the past five years, the group looks an easy target for a bid. The last net asset value showed a figure of 172p a share, but to this must be added debts totalling £400m against shareholders funds of £250m.

Meanwhile, there was also heavy new time support for shares of P & O, one of the most famous names in shipping, which continued to scale new heights while awaiting the expected bid from Trafalgar

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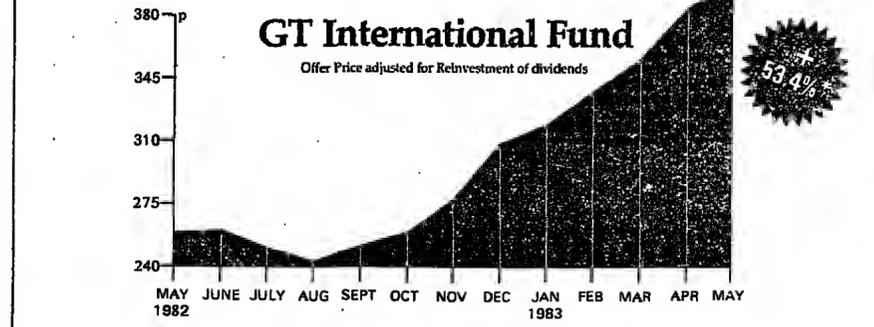
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An investment in any unit trust should be considered long term and it should be remembered that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Source: Planned Savings & Money Management



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Application form for GT International Fund. Includes fields for name, address, signature, and investment amount. A box for 'AGENT'S NAME & ADDRESS' is also present.

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Which way will interest rates go after the election? If you have no idea, an investment in Cater Allen's financial futures fund could give you a hedge against unexpected interest rate changes...

The fund, which is based in Jersey, was launched six weeks ago, and is the only one of its kind...

Called Supercover the policy also provides all risks cover for valuables and personal effects...

The cost depends on where you live but, in a high risk area, it would cost £180 pa for the following cover:

Unit Trust launch

Yet another unit trust portfolio management service is being launched - this time by Touche Rannart...



Thomas: another step

Co-op account sting

Mr Terry Thomas, General Manager of Co-op Bank, has taken another step towards offering customers what they want with a new interest-bearing current account...

of £30 a year, reducing the real return on the account to only 7 per cent, on which customers will be taxed.

Most customers will still be better off keeping say £200 in an ordinary Co-op Bank current account...

Alliance link-up

Good news for couples who would not normally qualify for building society loans. A tie-up between the Centurian Housing Association and the Alliance Building Society...

After the finance period has expired, the occupiers will be able to buy their house at a price based on the original value through a conventional mortgage.

Charges criticized

Current fund managers who take a 5 per cent initial charge are just "ripping off" their investors, according to Howard Flight, who manages Guinness Mahon's International Fund...

Prescriptions

Cut costs with a 'season ticket'

Prescription charges have now gone up to £1.40 for each item of medicine needed. But for those on low incomes and the chronically sick there are ways of reducing these heavy costs.

There are two ways in which one can do this - either by being able to avoid paying charges for prescriptions completely, or by buying what are becoming known as "season tickets".

"Season tickets" are actually set sums paid in advance and covering a fixed period. This allows you to have as much prescribed medicine as you need without paying any more.

The tickets cover two different periods. You get four months cover for £7.50, and if you are likely to need more than five items of medicine on prescription during this time, you will save money with one of these tickets.

The 12-month ticket is even better value. It costs £21.50; so if you need more than 15 items of medicine in a year.

To make use of the scheme, apply on form FP95 (EC95 in Scotland). These forms are available from post offices, chemist shops or Department of Health and Social Security offices.

About 70 per cent of prescriptions are given free. If one can manage it, this is the better way to take advantage of cutting the cost of illness.

Many people get free prescriptions automatically. This includes those getting supplementary benefit or family income supplement, pregnant women, and mothers with children under one year old.

A full list of these medical conditions, and of those who qualify automatically, is given in DHSS leaflet NHS Prescriptions. How to Get Them Free (number P11), available from post offices and DHSS offices.

Ian McDonald

Overseas trusts

Why the rich are set to run for their bolt holes in Bermuda

A deal has been completed in the last few weeks which ties up the assets of one of our most famous titled families in a Cayman Islands Trust.

Fear that a Labour government might introduce prohibitive rates of tax and the return of exchange controls was the motivation behind the move. And there are many others who will follow suit before the election.

People who move their money abroad, and those who make the arrangements for them to do so, are more than usually reticent about their activities.

However, virtually all the large firms of accountants and lawyers in the Cayman Islands, or a similar arrangement in the Bahamas, Bermuda or the British Virgin Islands, it is relatively simple to do. The merchant banks offer a similar service.

Generally speaking, the tax advantages of moving money into an overseas trust are minimal, though they may well become greater if a more stringent tax regime is introduced in the United Kingdom.

The appeal lies in the freedom to invest your money where and how you please, without penalty, and with the benefit of low local taxation.

The example of what has happened in France, where tough exchange controls have been introduced by the Mitterrand Government and investors have no freedom to move capital abroad, is sufficient to

prompt many United Kingdom investors to run for cover. Advisers say it is not worth setting up an overseas trust unless you have at least £100,000 of free capital which you are not going to need in the foreseeable future.

It can be done for smaller sums, but the annual management charge, usually 0.5 to 1 per cent of the trust's value and in some cases a minimum of £750 a year, make it an expensive exercise for sums under the £100,000 ceiling.

Initial setting up costs are about £1,000, though it may be more if property is involved. There will also be investment management charges of about 0.5 per cent.

Two crucial decisions have to be made. Where will the trust be based and who will be the trustee?

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are generally regarded as not being sufficiently remote from the United Kingdom or a left wing government, which could use all its weight to lean on the islands' governments to facilitate repatriation of United Kingdom residents' funds.

The Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are the favourite bolt holes of the rich and trusts based in these countries are believed to be safe from the clutches of governments.

But it is important to have a trustee who is not susceptible to any overt or covert pressure from a British government. The

offshore subsidiaries of United Kingdom banks might succumb to such pressure, or alternatively the parent bank, to save itself embarrassment or sanctions, might sell off its offshore subsidiary, and you could end up with an unsatisfactory trustee.

American banks tend to be thought of as less than ideal because of their large presence in the United Kingdom, their interdependence with its banks and the ease with which life could be made difficult for them in London.

In Bermuda most of the trustee businesses flock its way to Bank of NT Butterfield and Soe, which also has a branch in the Cayman Islands.

In the Bahamas, Bank of Nova Scotia is one of the more popular trustee banks and the Canadian banks generally pick up a lot of this business.

RoyWest Banking Corporation, a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada and National Westminster Bank, is based in the Bahamas and has a neat, off-the-peg trust available.

Minimum investment is \$50,000 (£32,258). The disadvantage is that investments are restricted to RoyWest funds, or bank deposits.

Anyone who wants to tie up their money in an overseas trust should take professional advice - but there are plenty of advisers in this field and it is not necessarily difficult or expensive.

Lorna Bourke

Savings

A nest egg for the early bird

It is never too early to begin saving, or for adults to start young children on the road towards good financial management.

Many parents and other well-meaning relatives like to give a baby a nest egg for the future, and as children grow they usually want to save for holidays, sports gear, clothes, or to pursue their favourite hobbies. National Savings is one of the most popular forms for these relatively small sums and can provide an investment facility for most needs, whatever the financial circumstances.

As most children are non-taxpayers, the investment account of the National Savings Bank is an obvious medium in which to invest money for a child. Interest is credited in full, without deduction of tax at source, and the rate of return has always been highly competitive. The present rate is 10.5 per cent.

Accounts for children under seven can be opened by a parent or relative, with as little as £1. As withdrawals are normally allowed until the child has turned seven, the donor can be sure the money will stay safely building up interest.

Children over seven can open accounts. One month's notice is required for withdrawals, and this can act as a curb on over-hasty encashment.

If deposits in the account are a gift from parents, as distinct from other sources, any interest over £5 is aggregated with their income for tax purposes.

Repayment values are linked to movements in the Retail Price Index, and extra supplements at the rate of 0.2 per cent a month are payable on certificates bought before next October. All benefits, index-linked or otherwise, are tax-exempt.

For those looking for a guaranteed return, the twenty-fifth issue of Savings Certificates offers 7.51 per cent compound over five years, which again is tax exempt. The certificates cost £25 each and can be bought at most post offices and bank. These, also, are available to people of all ages. Since the return is tax free, these are suitable for gifts from parents to a child.

The National Savings Income Bond is useful for providing regular income, but investment can be made only in multiples of £1,000 with a minimum of £2,000. A better proposition might be the purchase of one of



Similar rules regarding all children apply to the NSB ordinary account, which provides easy and convenient access to cash, given that business can be done at any of about 20,000 post offices.

Interest in balances below £500 is a not-too-generous 3 per cent, though the first £70 of annual interest is tax free.

For those investing for a child over a long period, who are anxious to preserve the buying power of savings, Index-linked National Savings Certificates (nanny bonds) can be bought for holders of all ages - from the cradle onwards. They are sold in £10 units and can be held to trust for a child.

Anyone over 16 can enter into an Index-linked Save As You Earn contract. The minimum monthly contribution is £4 and the maximum £50. Repayment values are linked to the Retail Price Index and there is a supplement payable on contracts started before next November.

Payments must be kept up for five years for full benefits of index-linking to be obtained, but interest at 6 per cent is paid on refunded contributions if the contract is terminated after one year. All benefits are tax free.

Finally, there is Ernie. Premium Bonds can be purchased in multiples of £5, and although the odds may look fairly forbidding, there is always the chance the holder will be lucky.

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International Growth Fund is Framlington's out-and-out capital growth fund, investing single-mindedly for capital appreciation on a world-wide basis.

It is a good choice for 1983-4: it concentrates in the United States but has the flexibility to shift the emphasis elsewhere.

At present, 67% of the fund is invested in North America, 14% in the UK and 18% in the Far East.

The fund was formed in October 1976. Since then the price of units has risen 736% compared with 249% for the FT All-Share Index.

Over the five years to 1st May International Growth Fund was the best performer of the 36 international funds monitored by Money Management magazine, turning £1,000 into £4,005.

On 17th May the offer price was 139.4p (Accumulation units 152.6p). The estimated gross yield was 0.48%. Income distributions are on June 15 and December 15; but since the fund aims purely for capital growth accumulation units in which the income is reinvested are recommended.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

LUMP-SUM INVESTMENT Units can be bought using the coupon or by telephoning 01-628 5181. The minimum investment is £500. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. There is a 1% discount for orders over £15,000.

Applications are acknowledged and certificates normally sent within 42 days. Units can be sold back at any time;

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ

LUMP SUM I wish to invest the sum of £ in Framlington International Growth Fund (minimum £500). I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited, I am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ Full first name(s) _____ Address _____ Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Joint applicants should all sign and give details separately.

How to make 200% profit on the Stock Market in just 35 days

At 9am on November 10th 1982, in an operation which involved split second timing, we advised our subscribers to buy Bio-Isolates (Holdings) Ltd at 110p.

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You can buy with confidence

The editor of Stockmarket Confidential is Malcolm Craig; if you're a major investor or a professional stockbroker you'll probably know him personally.

Otherwise you may have read him in the financial press, or one of his highly respected investment books.

SMC Growth Record 82/3 Top Performing Share: Security Tag Systems: +640% Average Growth Per 'Hot Tip' (including losses): +35.5% Average holding period: 11.73 weeks

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On Thursday June 2nd, if you're the winner, you'll receive £600 to spend or invest as you please.

We'd suggest you invest it evenly across our 'hot tips' for that week. Because if you do, and your £600 of shares aren't worth £1000 by June 30th, we'll make up the difference in cash. That's right. We're so confident that our advice is sound we believe £600 will be worth £1000 in just four weeks.

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In case you're away from home on a Thursday morning, or the first post is delayed, we supply you with a confidential Hot Tip Hotline phone number, so that you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

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Base Lending Rates

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Rate. ABN Bank 10%, Barclays 10%, BCCI 10%, Consolidated Crds 10%, C. Hoare & Co 10%, Lloyds Bank 10%, Midland Bank 10%, Nat Westminster 10%, TSB 10%, Williams & Glyn's 10%.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: هذا من لاصحاب

هر كذا من الاموال

Overseas trusts

Investment trusts

Specialization the way to capital growth

Specialization has been all the rage in the investment trusts over the past few years, and the old general trust has gone right out of fashion. Their share prices have wilted with neglect, unless there was the prospect of a bid or a unitization proposal to put a bit of life back into them.

In many cases the neglect was justified. Too many trusts have been run for too long to produce a comfortable living for their managers and an indifferent performance for their shareholders; and too many still are. However, among those that have been slighted there are some that do not deserve such treatment. Not only have they fulfilled their own objectives to produce "Growth in capital and income" - they have also done better than many of the highly fashionable and highly priced specialists.

The table shows six investment trusts that come into this category. Each is the sort of big, old fund in which you might expect the managers to be asleep on their feet. Each of them is selling on a discount which reflects the market's prejudices: it is well in excess of the 28 per cent average discount for general trusts, never mind the 26 per cent discount for trusts in general. Each of them has a better than average record, each has shares in which it is easy to deal; and for anyone who wants a lockaway investment - each of them looks like a very good buy.

Alliance and Second Alliance are run by the same managers, an independent company in Dundee with an independent view of life and investment. They bought very heavily into UK blue chips a couple of years ago and have done very well out of the decision. Foreign & Colonial is run by the management group of the

same name and has made out of the radical experiment in currency management. Philip Hill has done well out of UK blue chips. Scottish Mortgage (part of the Baillie Gifford stable) out of their US equivalents and Wisan (which is managed by Henderson) out of new technology ventures.

On a five-year view all of them have outperformed most of the other general trusts, and many of the specialists. Of course none of them is likely to produce the sort of stunning performance that technology specialist Independent has come up with the past five years; but then none of the other technology specialists has managed to match that either.

For those who like to back their own judgement by buying the specialists, the AITC is about to produce a welcome innovation. From next week it will be categorizing the trusts that its members run by specialization rather than by management group as at present. That should make it much easier to see at a glance what trusts specialize in what areas.

For the real enthusiasts the AITC has just produced its latest investment trust annual, in a hard back form. It is packed with information, and so it should be, at £20 a go. Copies are available from the AITC at Park House, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JF. (Telephone 01-588 5347)

| Trust | Price to net asset % | Estimated discount % |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Alliance | 428p | 30.2 |
| Foreign & Colonial | 88p | 29.8 |
| Philip Hill | 173p | 23.5 |
| Scottish Mortgage | 241p | 28.0 |
| Second Alliance | 388p | 30.3 |
| Wisan | 94p | 32.6 |

by Wood Mackenzie

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Travel trouble

Travel insurance

Take care with 'all-in' cover

The old insurance joke about the policy covering you for everything except what you are claiming for could hardly be truer in the case of Miss Rosalind Potts, a student at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Just before Easter she went into travel agents Oxford Student Travel and asked for a package insurance policy to cover her for a short holiday in Paris. The travel shop was busy and the assistant was anxious to sell the policy.

Miss Potts read quickly through the small print. "What does it cover?" she asked. "Everything", came the reply, so she handed over her premium of £5.30 and took her policy.

In Paris she had all her money stolen. She went through all the right motions, informing the police of the theft and, as soon as she got back to England, put in a claim to the insurers, Norwich Union.

To her surprise, her claim was refused on the grounds that the policy did not cover money - only personal effects. "But there is nothing in the policy exclusions to say that money is not covered", she pointed out.

Indeed, the assistant at Oxford Student Travel seems to have suffered the same miscon-

ception since he had confirmed that "everything" was covered.

Miss Potts's mother was so incensed at Norwich Union's refusal to pay that she wrote to us on behalf of her daughter. We took up the matter with Norwich Union which has now agreed to make an "ex gratia" payment of £50.

Norwich Union concedes that money is not specifically excluded. And, in fairness, this policy, put together by Accident and General Insurance Brokers, is not a standard Norwich Union policy, but one devised by the brokers which Norwich Union agreed to underwrite.

But Miss Potts's experience highlights a number of important insurance issues. First, how many thousands of these policies have been sold to unsuspecting students who believe that they are covered for loss of money?

Mr Courteney Heath, of Accident and General, has no sales figures but confirms that "probably half a dozen" university student unions sell the policy.

Second, consumers were recently criticized by the Insurance Ombudsman for not taking enough trouble to find out what cover was provided by travel policies. But even when

they do read the policy terms and conditions, as Miss Potts did, details of cover and exclusions are not necessarily clear.

The British Insurance Association confirms that the standard package travel policy sold by most of its member insurance companies includes cover for money. "It is very rare for a policy to make no mention of money at all," says an official.

The student travel specialist, Endsleigh Insurance, says that its standard student package does not cover loss of money - but this fact is stated quite clearly in the list of exclusions.

What is Accident and General's reaction to this? "Money and travellers' cheques are always quoted separately from personal effects," says Mr Heath. Would it not be useful then to point out that this particular policy did not cover money?

"No I don't think it would be useful. If you go to those lengths there would be no end to the list of exclusions," is the unhelpful response from Mr Heath.

Norwich Union takes a much more realistic view, is concerned that holidaymakers should not be misled and says that it will be looking into the wording of this particular

policy, conceding that it could be misinterpreted.

A third issue is whether holiday insurance be sold by unqualified personnel in travel agents. We checked out Miss Potts's claim that she had been told the policy covered her for money.

"What does it cover?" "Everything," came the instant reply. "What about money?" "Oh well, it doesn't cover that but no policy covers money." Incorrect information again.

It is clearly better that holidaymakers have insurance cover of some sort rather than no cover at all.

But if a travel policy is to be sold by non-specialist salespeople, through ordinary retail outlets, then the terms and conditions should be capable of being understood by even the most financially naive customer. It is not good enough for the Insurance Ombudsman to criticize holidaymakers for not reading their policies, if the policies themselves are vague, unclear and fail to make any mention of such obvious items as money.

Finally, any student who bought one of these policies and has had a claim for lost money turned down should get in touch with Norwich Union



Down and out in Paris: student traveller Rosalind Potts

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This is arguably the most important General Election since the war, with such a wide gap between the political parties. But how will the outcome effect your investments?

If the Conservatives win, investment conditions can be expected to stabilise. But if the Labour or SDP parties win - or if one of them holds the balance of power - the investment implications are serious. Both parties are committed to the restoration of exchange controls - and that will stop you investing in unit trusts specialising in international investments.

For guidance on the potential of world investment markets as the election approaches, simply complete and return the coupon without delay.

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A Message from the Chairman

"This month marks the 25th Anniversary of the Towry Law Group. We have every reason to be proud of our achievement in becoming the leading personal financial planning advisers in the United Kingdom. We wish to thank our clients, both individual and corporate, for their continuing and loyal support in an era which has seen an unprecedented growth in the variety of insurance and investment opportunities available.

Our specialist services include such diverse subjects as cutting the cost of private education, advising on the most suitable mortgage repayment plans, providing tax efficient pensions, arranging life assurance policies, saving Capital Transfer Tax, and selecting the "best buys" in unit trusts.

We have extended our general insurance services to risk management, have become established Lloyd's brokers and manage the underwriting interests of members of Lloyd's.

The last ten years have seen the introduction of statutory safeguards for investors, with more still to come. We welcome every safeguard for the investing public, and believe that those who need financial advice should have every possible protection. It is for this reason that we fully support the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act as a means of upholding professional standards backed by statutory sanctions.

Whenever you need advice, you should always seek the best. On this, our 25th Anniversary, we would like to think that you will join our 50,000 clients in asking for our insurance and financial advice for the next 25 years."

W. Law
The Hon. C.T.H. Law
Chairman

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- Guarantee Royal Exchange
- Hambro Life Assurance
- Henderson Administration
- HS Special Unit Trust Managers
- Legal and General Life Assurance Society
- MGM Assurance
- National Employers Life
- National Provident Institution
- Norwich Union Life Insurance Society
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Legal & General

Fears boost the case for gold

Gold bullion and shares have more or less recovered from their collapse in February, but the excitement is restrained. The signals, as always in this touchy market, are contradictory.

There is the expectation that the bullion price will rise from its present \$340 an ounce to about \$500 by the end of the year. But this gain is likely to be offset by rising mining costs and the appreciation of the rand against the dollar.

The case for a gold price increase rests heavily on two factors: inflation and fears about the health of the world financial system. One influential school maintains that attempts to restrict economic activity will undoubtedly accelerate the rate of price increases.

To a certain extent, of course, the argument depends on the currency of the investor. If the gold price is tracked in Special Drawing Rights, it was much nearer to its high in February than it was if measured by the dollar price of \$503.

SHARE HIGHLIGHTS table with columns: Company, Price y'day, Change on "High", "Low", Comment. Includes Amber Industrial, Central Sheerwood, Diamond Stylus, P & O Dfd, J Waddington.

Gilts

The most notable thing to say about the gilt-edged market this week is that it has done virtually nothing. Few of the major investors are prepared to take a view of developments on this side of the Atlantic with still more than two and a half weeks to go to the election, and there is considerable uncertainty as to which way the US interest rates are likely to go.

The latter is probably the most important factor. The Republican-controlled Senate has thrown out - albeit by just one vote - the latest Reagan tax cut proposals on the grounds that they might fuel inflation. This is familiar ground: monetarists versus pump-primers - but with the checks and balances which exist in the US political and financial system it is difficult to predict just what will happen next.

The London equity market has been much more fun. The word fun is used advisedly, since although the market has recovered its nerve to the tune of a 20-point-plus improvement on the week, this has been achieved on a low volume. Again it seems that no one is prepared to make any substantial move in front of the election: the jobbers have been more active with their blue pencils than they have on their books.

That, of course, is special situations apart. The takeover bandwagon is gathering momentum fuelled by the news that Trafalgar House has announced a 5 per cent share stake in P & O. Predictably Trafalgar will not let on as to whether this is a prelude to a full bid - but the whole market is expecting just that.

The mammoth development of the week was BTR's increased bid for Thomas Tilling to a United Kingdom all-comers' record of £66.4m. Tilling is still resisting strongly.

WALL STREET table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change, Volume, etc. Lists various stocks like AMF Inc, Allied Chem, Amstar, etc.

Current account - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 6% per cent. Seven days notice required. Monthly income account Natwest 9% per cent. Fixed term deposits - £2,500 - £25,000 - 1 month 9.25 per cent. 3 and 6 months 9.25 per cent. 3 and 6 months 9.25 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

MANAGEMENT AGENCY & MUSIC P.L.C. INTERIM STATEMENT. The unaudited profits of the Group before taxation for the six months ended 31st January 1983 amounted to £294,280 compared with £1,023,932 for the comparative six months last year.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table with columns: Metal, Price, Y'day's change. Includes Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Nickel, Silver.

COMMODITIES table with columns: Commodity, Price, Y'day's change. Includes Soyabean Meal, International Petroleum, Sugar, Wool, Grain, Meat and Livestock.

UNIT TRUST PRICES - change on the week table with columns: Fund Name, Current Price, Bid, Offer, Yield. Lists various unit trusts like Abbey Unit Trust, Capital Growth, etc.

UNIT TRUST PRICES - change on the week table (continued) with columns: Fund Name, Current Price, Bid, Offer, Yield. Lists various unit trusts like Property Growth, International, etc.

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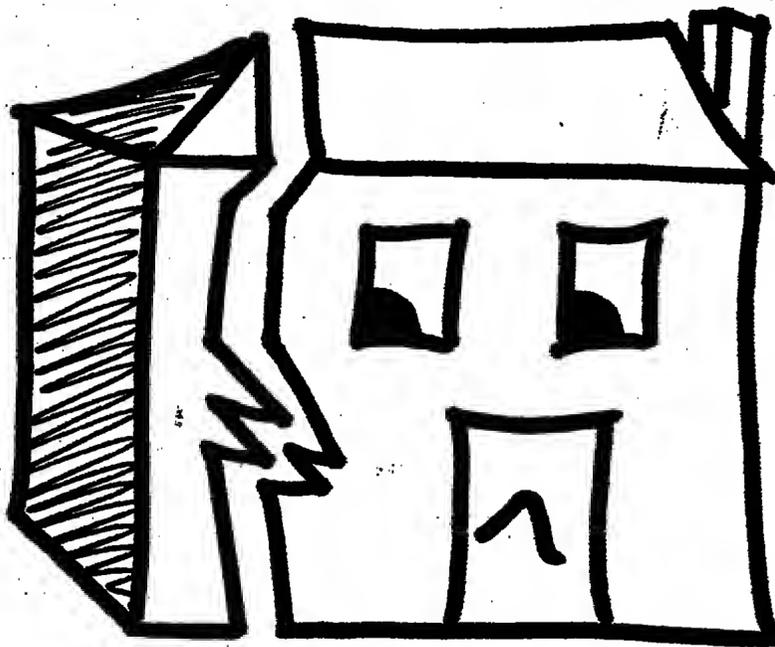
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This advertisement is published by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Thomas Tilling plc.



Would you sell your home for far less than it's worth?

That's what BTR are asking you to do with your Tilling shares.

Just two of Tilling's businesses have a combined value of at least half the BTR final cash bid.

Don't be panicked into selling your Tilling shares.



Don't sell Tilling short - don't sell Tilling at all.

THE TIMES 100 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

The smell of burnt fingers

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin Monday. Dealings end, June 3. Closing day, June 6. Settlement day, June 8.

BTR, still pressing ahead with its bid for Tilling, closed 2p up at 42 1/2p, after being 42 1/2p.

Dealers reckon there is unlikely to be much of a fundamental change in market sentiment before the election, with volume remaining low and

the direction of world interest rates. Early falls were reported as news of a 2 per cent increase to 13 per cent was reported in Hongkong prime rates, but prices recovered when the latest retail price figures showed inflation down to 4 per cent.

By the close the losses extended to 2 1/2p in longs as the pound rose 0.1 cents to \$1.5555 on the foreign exchange.

Shares of Consolidated Gold Fields slipped 2p to 57 1/2p despite speculation that the mining finance group was on the verge of selling its Skytop Brewster oil service group in the US. Cons Gold is reckoned to have been looking for a buyer for several months at an asking price of around \$60m.

The Xerox offer document published yesterday confirms that Xerox now owns 242,000 ordinary shares in Bann Bros, 15p off at 208p, which it is bidding 22 1/2p a share for. In addition, irrevocable undertakings take its total holding to

1.2 million shares of 22.04 per cent of the equity. The first closing date for the offer is June 10.

House of Fraser shares continued to rise on strong buying, which pushed them up 1 1/2p to a new high of 222 1/2p. The

Shares of Tate & Lyle rose 10p to a high of 342 1/2p yesterday ahead of figures next week. Analysts are looking for interim pretax profits of £18.5m against £15m and £48m for the year. Dealers appear to have shrugged off fears of a rights issue accompanying the figures, although the group has said it will spend an extra £95m in North America over the next couple of years.

Further the shares rise, the more dangerous it is for the main Fraser board whose directors are trying to resist the efforts being made by Lombe to have Harrods demerged from the group.

Hopes of a counter bid for Juhn Waddington, the games maker, took a knock as profit-taking lopped 15p from the shares at 178p. Earlier this week, Norton Opex bid 170p.

This week's newcomers to the Unlisted Securities Market ended on a mixed note. Micro Focus, the computer software group, offered by tender at 155p, ended the week 8p higher at 241p against a striking price of 240p.

But Chemical Methods, the US group which makes dish-washing machines for the commercial market, encountered profit-taking and lost 7p to close at 115p, compared with a placing price of 103p.

Further the shares rise, the more dangerous it is for the main Fraser board whose directors are trying to resist the efforts being made by Lombe to have Harrods demerged from the group.

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RECENT ISSUES table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

MEDICINES table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for Market Rates and Forward Rates.

Money Market Rates table with columns for Clearing Rate, Discount Rate, and Treasury Bills.

Other Markets table with columns for Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland.

Dollar Spot Rates table with columns for United States, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland.

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FOOTBALL: THE AMERICANS GO HOME WITH A HEAVY HEART: MELIA COMES TO TOWN WITH A LIGHT ONE

Mexico wins the World Cup

DAVID MILLER

Stockholm

The decision of FIFA openly to insult one of the most powerful nations among their membership, the United States, may in the long term prove to be in the best interests of the world's most important game. For too long international football has been enmeshed by political motives and personal interest.

With the ball having been hooked back rather clumsily in the American half of the field, the contest is poised to become intriguing as the New World challenges the apparent lack of democracy in the old world body's verdict.

By an allegedly unanimous decision the FIFA executive committee have awarded the 1986 World Cup finals to Mexico, following a process of argument which, if it were adopted by a town council's housing committee, would almost certainly end up in the courts.

Yet FIFA's autocratic body are beyond independent judgment or appeal.

FIFA yesterday allowed a US Soccer Federation delegation including Henry Kissinger, to travel here from America to make a bid for the 1986 finals which was subsequently seen to have been doomed weeks, if not months, beforehand. The ridicule and insults to which Canada were equally subjected may prove to have been unwise, not to say unhelpful.

To have utterly rejected the 50-minute plea by Dr Kissinger, Pele and the US soccer vice-president, Werner Fricker - to be granted not the finals but at least an inspection of facilities - has deeply angered several Americans on the sidelines of the charade which took place yesterday when, at the touch



Grim faces at the farce: fifa executives (from left) Neuberger, Havelange and Blatter.

of a telephone button, can call upon more millions than even FIFA have at their command.

As the Mexicans departed in an orgy of self-congratulation one American - not Kissinger - muttered: "It is absurd that they can take decisions of this magnitude behind closed doors, without making an equal assessment of all bids. They have got away with it for too long. Now they've got it coming in them."

Both Dr Kissinger and the Canadian, led by Jim Fleming, formally wished Mexico well but the Canadians issued a statement saying: "We regret the failure of FIFA to send its sub-committee to all bidding countries. In determining the host country for the world's largest sports spectacle it is important that justice be done and that it appears to be done. For such a universal event it is incumbent upon decision-makers to enquire and assess fairly and the nature and capacity of all potential host nations."

The events of the day were little short of farce, as improbable as *Charley's Aunt*, but sadly predictable. They culminated with Joao Havelange, the FIFA president, announcing Mexico's appointment within 35 minutes of the conclusion of the

representations by Canada, Mexico and the US and without further discussion by the executive committee having taken place for more than a few minutes.

Each delegation were allocated 30 minutes. Canada, after 25, were abruptly warned by Havelange: "You have five minutes". Mexico followed. Four of their six members were from television. They were out in under eight minutes or, as a Canadian observed, just about the time required to shake hands with the 20 members of the executive committee.

In vent the entourage led by Kissinger, who had arrived by private plane at 5 am. Havelange, prolonging the insult, allowed the United States delegation to remain for almost an hour, during which Dr Kissinger said that the American case rested on its merits, not on criticism of Mexico; that there were more young soccer players than baseball players in the United States; and that where there were two equal candidates the country which had not previously staged the World Cup, let alone done so 13 years ago, should receive the competition.

Pele, in an emotional speech said: "I have torn up my notes and am speaking to you from the heart. I am a

child of soccer. I honestly believe that the game urgently needs something new, a fresh face, because everywhere the game is under pressure from other interests, from tennis, basketball and so on. There is nothing new for the game in Mexico or Italy. If Brazil, my own country, was a candidate, I would still say give it to the United States because it is there that the game can expand and gain fresh impetus."

But someone in the meeting said that the committee looked at the greatest player the game has ever seen with bland, unfeeling eyes, if he were no more than a commodity, like zinc or barley. Many of us have long known that FIFA have scant regard for footballers, otherwise how could they allow such abysmal refereeing, such craven subservience to the demands of television?

While the US delegation were in the conference room the Mexicans outside were already busy discussing the first-round grouping of matches for 1986. Their president, Rafael Del Castillo Ruiz, having been seen arm-in-arm with Guillermo Canedo, the Mexican member of the executive, confidently stated: "We only needed one minute. Our offer was the best. The only one to satisfy FIFA demands." Long before FIFA's official statement, cocktails were being prepared in the hotel lobby for public celebration.

Harry Cavan, the FIFA vice-president, having stated publicly beforehand that he believed the subcommittee were wrong not to have visited all applicants, was embarrassed by the "unanimous" announcement that showed where his vote had gone, though he claimed he had insisted on the losers being informed of the vote before the announcement. "Nice of you to let us know you'd shot us, Harry," Canada's Minister of Sport R. J. Ferrault, said.



Kissinger: ruled outside

Hertmann Neuberger, chairman of the World Cup organizing committee, who hoped to succeed Havelange, not only claimed that secret voting was not democratic but made great play of the alleged failure of the US to meet the March 11 arbitrary deadline with their presidential and financial guarantees. But as Phil Woosnam, of the North American Soccer League, said: "If that was the point on which we failed then there was never any point to our being here."

Canada and America each produced elaborate, documented brochures of 90-odd pages. It was learnt yesterday that Mexico's bid for the most valuable sporting event on earth consisted of six foolscap sheets. That suggests in most people that the World Cup was never really put out to tender. Dr Kissinger diplomatically insists: "We will not engage in any criticism of FIFA's action" but from the way his aides are talking I do not think FIFA have heard the end of this one.

Rangers must defy logic

By Hugh Taylor

Aberdeen, at the peak of their powers, are solid favourites to win the Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park today, even the most partisan of supporters of their opponents, Rangers, giving their little hope of victory. Although Rangers are playing in their eighth final in a row, have a tradition in the tournament gathering with honours and are determined to salvage a prize from one of the most depressing seasons in their long history, it is difficult to find a logical reason for even considering the possibility of their winning.

Aberdeen are flushed with success following their European Cup Winners Cup triumph. Player for player, they are superior to Rangers. Having savoured success over Real Madrid, one of European football's most prestigious names, they will not be inhibited by the big occasion at Hampden.

Add to the formidable list of Aberdeen assets the fact that they beat Rangers in last season's final and have a new incentive in that a win today will make them the first team this century other than Rangers or Celtic to retain the Scottish Cup and win the league. The bookmakers, practically every neutral football enthusiast and eight out of the 10 leading league managers are convinced that the northern conquerors will add a second jewel to the crown they won at Gothenburg.

Incidentally, the two managers who are out of step with their colleagues are stepped in the Ibrox tradition, Jack and Alex. Both, however, may be a little out of touch now that they have left their old club, for both state that "Rangers are at their best when they are down". That old tradition has hardly been revived this season and perhaps the most difficult task of their beleaguered manager, John Greig, has been to restore morale following the abysmal defeat by Celtic at Ibrox last week. The team could not have come at a worse time for Rangers because, despite their lamentable season, they had been showing improved form.

However, to those who feel Aberdeen have only to turn up to win, Greig says: "Aberdeen are a fine side but they are not invincible. They are not machines and that was shown when we beat them at Ibrox only a month ago". Certainly Rangers are furious at being summarily dismissed by almost the entire country and if the artistry of Cooper, Bett and Russell is allowed to flourish today they could turn it into an engaging contest.

Aberdeen's power and confidence, however, look irresistible. The strength and Strachan's skill help give them an all-round superiority which it is hard to imagine can be seriously challenged. Rangers, to say the least of it, have been sickly inconsistent.

Ringmasters of United can crack the whip over Brighton tumblers

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Logically Brighton's claim to the FA Cup is almost laughable. No wonder they have hired a comedian, Bob Bevan, to accompany them on their journey to Wembley stadium today. He might be advised to join them on their flight back to the south coast tonight as well. They might appreciate a few jokes by then.

If nothing else, Brighton have at least brought with them a refreshing wind of change. The sky has been filled with more than enough heavy black clouds recently and, but for Foster's unhappy fate, the build-up to the final against Manchester United has been light-hearted and jocular, a happy reminder that it is, after all, only a game and not a serious business.

Jimmy Melia, Brighton's manager, has been more responsible than most. With a held pate sandwiched between generous tufts of hair on either side of his head, he is known at the club as Coco. "After all the publicity," he said, "they are now calling me fish-and-chips. I'm never out of the paper."

Since he has suffered the ignominy of being dismissed by such lowly clubs as Aldershot, Southampton and Crewe Alexandra, he can blame him for causing his sudden change of fortune. Had Brighton's board not tired of Mike Bailey's relatively dull approach in December, he would not be soaring so high with his flock of Seagulls.

Brighton may have fallen to earth in the League and Melia is honest enough to admit that the club might have prospered safely above relegation had Bailey remained in charge. But in the Cup they have risen far above their own expectations, especially in the fifth round at Anfield where they achieved the most unlikely victory of the season.

Now they have the opportunity to equal that feat. Favourites have trodden on unforgotten banana skins at Wembley before. Leeds United slipped up surprisingly against Sunderland a decade ago and United themselves tumbled unexpectedly against Southampton in 1976. Even Featherstone Rovers refreshed the memory of triumphant underdogs in the Rugby League final two weeks ago.

No-one can deny that the evidence in United's favour is almost overwhelming. Brighton, attempting to become the first side to lead the way up Wembley's historic steps and also down to the second division in the same year, have over before in their 83 years taken part in the "experience of a lifetime", as Foster's counsel described it.

They have lost Foster, their leader whose beard and thick white headband was becoming as familiar as that of Borg at Wimbledon. His absence through suspension, which was confirmed in the High Court on Monday, significantly weakens the case for their defence. It was already open to cross examination. Now it looks threadbare.

They have a full back, Pearce, provision for a year and a midfielder player, Howlett, who has hardly been in the side for 10 games. Even their musical prowess is inferior. Their team song, "The Old Brighton Blue",

is currently 127th in the charts. "Glory, Glory Man United" is 35th.

Brighton's experience and slender hopes rest on the tripod of the sturdy Grealish and Case and the more genteel and artistic Smith. Much also depends on the performance of the energetic Robinson, their leading scorer, but recently he has led an attack whose ammunition has exploded with all the ferocity of a leaking water pistol.

United, by comparison are embarrassingly rich in experience and talent. The top problem for their manager, Ron Atkinson, was to fill the gap left by Coppell on the right. After watching Cunningham, his first choice, fail a fitness test, he picked Davies, a 21-year-old Welshman, ahead of the unfortunate Grimes.

When he first arrived at Old Trafford, Atkinson showed similar confidence in the youngster, one of Dave Sexton's final duties was to offer Davies a free transfer. It was immediately withdrawn. Oddly enough Davies is the only United representative to be born in Manchester and will be starting only his fourth full match in five years.

If he is an understudy, the rest of United's cast are stars, most of whom appeared on Wembley's spacious stage two months ago in the League (Milk) Cup against Liverpool. The play turned out to be a cruel farce and it is unlikely

either that the script will be altered so dramatically or that they will need any prompting.

Robson, probably the most complete all-rounder in Europe who was crucially absent in March, will take that Stapleton, arguably the prime "target" man in the country, and Whiteside, an 18-year-old who has already fulfilled a lifetime's ambitions, would deliver the punch lines while a deluge that has been broken but once in seven and a half hours so far keeps Brighton silent.

It would be an appropriate way for United to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Munich air disaster and Brighton will continue the aviation theme by flying to the tie in a Skorski helicopter, once used to accompany the Pope. They could do with some aerial guidance themselves. While Atkinson waits for the Seagulls to land, he is content to see his side keep their feet on the ground.

Manchester United's forward Norman Whiteside, at 18 years and 14 days, will become the youngest scorer in an FA Cup Final if he is on target today. That honour is currently held by John Sissons, who was 18 years and 215 days when he scored for West Ham against Preston in 1964.

United are the second team to reach the finals of both of England's major cup competitions in the same season. Tottenham were the first last year, losing to Liverpool in the Milk Cup but defeating QPR in the FA Cup after a replay.

Manchester United

GARY BALEY, goalkeeper, third Wembley appearance, in the second division, in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Wendie Durbury, right back, now established as a regular in the first team. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Armed Maurice Middlefield, Dutch international, arrived in the club from Luton. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Frank Stapleton, forward, fourth goal in the FA Cup. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Norman Whiteside, forward, Northern Ireland captain, scored his first goal for United. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Frank Stapleton, forward, fourth goal in the FA Cup. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m. Dismissed Roy Wilkins in a deal worth £1.5m.

Jacklin establishes a grumpy mood for his celebration

By John Hennessy, Golf Correspondent

Tony Jacklin broke a huge logjam on the second day of the Car Care Plan golf tournament yesterday. A 12-foot putt rolled obediently home on the 18th for a score of 69, one under par, and a two round total of 134. He thus passed ahead of six other players sharing the same elevated position of five under par either in the clubhouse or on the course.

It might, you might think, be a moment for general jubilation and mellow recognition of the difficulties involved in preparing golf courses this year, but Jacklin used the occasion instead for an attack on several fronts. Why, he asked play the first two tournaments in the north? Why, in any case, play them in different courses? And why not prepare them more conscientiously? Winslow last week had taken him back 20 years. The Sand Moor Greens this week were like a Yorkshire innstead for an attack on several fronts. Why, he asked play the first two tournaments in the north? Why, in any case, play them in different courses? And why not prepare them more conscientiously? Winslow last week had taken him back 20 years. The Sand Moor Greens this week were like a Yorkshire innstead for an attack on several fronts. Why, he asked play the first two tournaments in the north? Why, in any case, play them in different courses? And why not prepare them more conscientiously? 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Saturday

Television and radio programmes Edited by Peter Davalle

Sunday

BBC 1

- 6.25 Open University: Harrier aircraft pilots; 6.50 Mining in Ireland; 7.15

tv-am

- 6.00 Daybreak (including news at 6.00 and 6.30) and, at 7.00 Good Morning Britain

TV/LONDON

- 8.30 No 73: for the younger viewer. Disc jockey David Jensen talks about his job.

BBC 2

- 6.25 Open University (until 3.10). 3.25 Film: The Funckback of Notre Dame (1958) Humdrum

CHANNEL 4

- 2.20 Power Play: The council-in-the-studio debates the subject of the privatization of a city's cleaning services.

BBC 1

- 6.50 Open University (until 8.55) Sodium Chemistry; 7.15 Scottish Gas Computing; 7.40 Writing Theory; 8.05

TV-am

- 7.00 Rub-a-Dub-Tub: For the under-eights. Studio lizards and stories etc. And, at 8.00 Good Morning Britain

ITV/LONDON

- 8.30 Overst! The art of pace bowling. Demonstrated by Tom Graveney and some of the Somerset CC men; 10.00

BBC 2

- 6.25 Open University (until 1.55) From Holography at Work (at 6.25) to Maths Methods: Projects (at 1.30)

CHANNEL 4

- 1.55 Irish Angles: Opinion from north and south of the border. 2.25 Film: Counselor-at-Law



Rex Ingram as De Lawd in the film 'The Green Pastures' (Channel 4, 2.50pm)



Sarah Badel in the Play of the Month production 'Dangerous Corner' (BBC 1, 7.50pm)

Radio 4

- 6.25am Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News. 6.32 Farming Today. 6.59 In Perspective: Religious affairs.

Radio 3

- 7.55am Weather. 8.05 Auld Scotch Songs. 8.15 The Piano. 8.25 The Piano.

Radio 2

- 5.00am Tony Brandford. 8.05 David Jacobson. 10.00 Sounds of the 60s.

Radio 1

- 6.00am Wake Up To The Weekend. 6.00am News. 6.30am News.

Radio 4

- 6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News. 6.32 Morning Has Broken.

Radio 3

- 7.55 Weather. 8.05 News. 8.05 Your Concert Choice.

Radio 2

- 5.5 Tony Brandford. 7.30 Nick Page. 8.0 David Jacobson with Melodics for You.

Radio 1

- 6.0 Pat Sharp. 8.0 Tony Blackburn's Sunday Show. 10.0 Adrian Jervis. 12.0

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 105.3kHz/225m, 108.9kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 68.3kHz/433m or 90.9kHz/330m. Radio 4/7 MF 88.1MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90.92 MHz. VHF 121.9kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92.95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/147m. LBC MF 1152kHz/251m. VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.5MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/200m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Grid of regional television variations for BBC 1, BBC 2, CHANNEL 4, TSW, CENTRAL, GRANADA, HTV West, HTV Wales, YORKSHIRE, ANGLIA, SCOTTISH, and ULSTER. Each cell lists local news, sports, and other regional programming.

